

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF MARC BARON**

2 **CONDUCTED BY Corporal Jason McMullen**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **Today is December 6th, 2011 at 1329 hours. Corporal Jason McMullen and**
7 **Corporal Mike Segreaves of the Orange County Sheriff's Office talking to Marc**
8 **Baron.**
9
10

11 A Yes.

12 Q Is that correct, alright. Um what's your birthday Marc?

13 A 02/24/1988.

14 Q Alright. And is there a address for you, a home address?

15 A Local or back home?

16 Q If you, both if you have.

17 A I mean the local is 4 0 1 Putnam Drive, apartment 1433, Tallahassee Florida 3 2
18 3 0 1.

19 Q Alright what about at home?

20 A 1 1 6 Swan Parkway.

21 (Knocking)

22 Q Swan, like a bird.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q Can we trade places...

25 A Yes a bird. Street. Swan Parkway East.

1 Q We're just gonna switch up a little bit here. This is Detect; Detective uh Chiota's
2 uh switching spots uh...

3 A Royal Palm Beach Florida. 3 3 4 11.

4 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

5 Q 3 3 4 11?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what about a phone number?

8 A 5 6 1 6 0 1 1 9 5 6.

9 Q Alright. And you're in the band correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What part of the band?

12 A Percussion.

13 Q Percussion, alright. Um did you go to Orlando for The Florida Classic?

14 A Yeah I did.

15 Q Alright what bus did you ride?

16 A "Bus C".

17 Q "Bus C", alright. Um did you ride the bus back from the game Friday?

18 A Friday, yes I did.

19 Q Okay.

20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21 Q The battle of the bands?

22 A Yeah the battle of the bands.

23 Q Okay. I'm sorry what was your first name?

24 A Marc.

25 Q Marc.

1 gonna cross some people. So I said okay, it didn't matter to me cause I was
2 suppose to meet with my girlfriend and her sister to go get something to eat but
3 her sister bailed so me and my girlfriend was gonna get something to eat. So
4 and there were some people talking about, like some people (inaudible) talking
5 about they had to spray paint the bottom of the shoes for the red bottom, it was a
6 effect we were doing for uh the Saturday show, field show. So they were saying
7 they had to do that and after that that's all.

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q Okay when you coming back from the, so the, the bus is moving.

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Right. You, and you um done a cross over?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Okay when did you cross over?

14 A January 2009.

15 Q 2009, okay.

16 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

17 Q Where did that hap, where at?

18 A Um Atlanta.

19 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

20 Q Atlanta.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Okay and um did you have to do the hot seat first?

23 A Un huh (Affirmative)

24 Q Correct, okay. How many hot seats did you do?

25 A I did 4.

1 Q Four.

2 A Yeah.

3 Q Okay. And who was the uh, uh the person that, some of the stuff we already

4 know but we need to make sure that so we're not, we get it straight from you.

5 Whose the person that determines who's gonna be in the hot seat?

6 A Um the bus president.

7 Q The bus president, who's the bus president uh at the time that you did yours?

8 A To be honest I really don't know.

9 Q Okay. Uh and just so we not use, we're all using the same term we have all the

10 same understanding, what is a hot seat, you describe hot seat to us.

11 A Okay it's where you get in like the last seat on the right hand side. They'll tell you

12 to get in the position you know like this, cover your head.

13 Q Okay so the tape can't see this so what you're doing is you're putting, the, is

14 there, is there a position they call that?

15 A Uh, nah they just say get in the position.

16 Q Okay. But then it's the hot seat and you, basically what you're de, showing is

17 that you're putting your head down between your legs.

18 A Yeah and you put your uh your hands over your, your head.

19 Q Your head.

20 A To protect yourself.

21 Q To protect yourself.

22 A Yeah.

23 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

24 Q Are you, are you in the back of the bus when you're doing that?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay.

2 A And then they put a uh, a blanket over you and they beat you for about, like, to,

3 from like a set period of time.

4 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

5 Q What's that period of time?

6 A You don't know.

7 (Laughter)

8 A You don't know.

9 Q So for you how long was it?

10 A I mean the average...

11 Q Roughly.

12 A ...the average is about like 3 or 4 minutes.

13 Q Three or four minutes, that's a long time.

14 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

15 Q So it's, it's different every time?

16 A Yeah it, yeah you don't know.

17 Q Okay.

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q But the person who determines that is the bus president?

20 A I mean, I mean they don't determine how long, they just say after a while just like

21 okay send them back up and then that's it.

22 Q Okay but the, who's, who determines that time?

23 A Oh um yeah the, the president.

24 Q The bus president, okay. Alright and um did you um, uh what do they use when

25 they um, when you're getting your hot seat?

1 A I mean they, its different things, like some people use their fist.
2 Q Okay.
3 A Uh they kick, use drumsticks, bass drum mallards.
4 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**
5 Q They kick on the hot seat?
6 A Yeah.
7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
8 Q How do they kick you if you're sitting down? I mean they're suppose to hit your
9 back right?
10 A I mean yeah but they, also you can hit the sides.
11 Q Oh you can hit the sides?
12 A Yeah.
13 Q Okay. That's kinda hard when you're sitting, do they actually land a punch, a, a,
14 a kick with the...
15 A Yeah.
16 Q Yeah.
17 A Yeah.
18 Q I bet it hurts huh.
19 A Yeah.
20 Q Um okay so they can kick you, the fist and drum sticks you said?
21 A Yeah.
22 Q Now are they using the drum stick to, to stab you with it?
23 A No not stab you with it...
24 Q Oh okay.
25 A ...it's like hit you across the back.

1 Q Like playing like you're a drum?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q How, does it hurt?

4 A I mean it does later on.

5 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

6 Q Doesn't feel good (laughter).

7 A Yeah it doesn't feel good but it's like, I remember like the first, not the first but like
8 the last time I, I did it, it was like I got hit and then after it when I went back to the
9 front I was fine. Like it, it didn't hurt; it was just like I was just upset I got one
10 that's all.

11 Q How...

12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

13 Q You were upset?

14 A Yeah.

15 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

16 Q When, when you say you get, did the hot seat 4 times, is that...

17 A It's...

18 Q ...4 different trips?

19 A Yeah 4 different trips.

20 Q Okay.

21 A Nah it wasn't all at once.

22 Q You what?

23 A It wasn't all at once.

24 Q Okay.

25 A It was in 4 separate occasions.

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q And why did you get 4?

3 A I mean...

4 Q Are you a leader?

5 A Nah.

6 Q Were you set up to be a leader, is that why some people...

7 A Nah it's, it's, it depends, I, I don't know who does all that but it's just, they try to
8 get everybody like a certain number of hot seats and then is like, like I know with
9 me like after, after we did The Classic in 08 it was me and a, it was me, a girl and
10 another guy. Like we did, we were, like they didn't finish everybody so we had to
11 wait until that we did the uh inauguration trip to do it.

12 Q To do the hot seat or the crossing?

13 A No the, the crossing.

14 Q Okay.

15 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

16 Q Once you do the cross over you're done with hot seat...

17 A Yeah.

18 Q ...you're done, that's it.

19 A Done.

20 Q And you only do that once.

21 A Yeah, you only cross once.

22 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

23 Q Okay. Um did you ever have to, your, the hot seat, did you ever get sick, did you
24 ever throw up?

25 A Nah.

1 Q Did you ever lose consciousness?

2 A Nah just sore and stuff but...

3 Q Sore.

4 A That's nothing...

5 Q Okay. Alright um and when you did the cross over uh did you get sick or ...

6 A I mean I ...

7 Q ...did you ever get dizzy or ...

8 A ...I threw up because of, I ate some, I think it was Burger King or Wendy's

9 before.

10 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

11 A And then when I went through I was throwing that up but after, beside that no

12 dizziness or anything like that, just vomiting the food that was in my system.

13 Q And uh but, but it wasn't because of the bad food it was because of the...

14 A Yeah it...

15 Q ...the action.

16 A ...yeah it's because...

17 Q Is, is it pretty strenuous?

18 A I mean to be honest with you it depends of who you are.

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20 A And how you, how you react to pain.

21 Q Right.

22 A That's, that's (inaudible), it really was (inaudible).

23 Q When you did your cross over did anybody help you?

24 A Oh yeah.

25 Q Yeah.

1 A Yeah.

2 Q I mean is that standard to have somebody...

3 A Yeah it's, it's very standard.

4 Q Okay. How long does it take you to get from the, the, and te, describe the cross
5 over so I don't use terms, the same terms.

6 A Okay well it's, you start in the beginning and you go, you try to find your way to
7 the back.

8 Q Of, of the bus?

9 A Yeah the bus.

10 Q Is it always on the same bus?

11 A Um I think.

12 Q I mean is it on "Bus H" or is it always on "Bus C"?

13 A I mean I think we've done some crossings that weren't on "Bus C" but I'm not, I
14 don't really, I just act like, they're just like hey hop on the bus where the crossing,
15 I'm like okay whatever.

16 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

17 Q Are they per, percussionist the only one that do it?

18 A No, no I mean you, you don't have to be a percussionist to actually get uh, get
19 licensed on the bus and all that stuff, you could be in any section but it's just you
20 have to ride the bus and you know get some hot seats, that's the only like
21 requirement really.

22 Q Okay.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q That's how you get respect.

25 A I mean it's not really respect it's just, it's like just the...

1 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

2 Q Earning your spot.

3 A Yeah it's not even earning a spot it's just, you're just like (inaudible). It's, in a
4 certain way respect but it's not really respect it's just, you just like band
5 credentials really.

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7 Q Now can't sax person ...

8 A Yeah.

9 Q ...do a cross over.

10 A Yeah.

11 Q And they do it on...

12 A Yeah, "Bus C".

13 Q ..."Bus C".

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay. Alright. Okay so who are the people um that uh...

16 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

17 Q How...

18 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

19 Q I'm sorry go ahead.

20 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

21 Q ...how many people are normally on the bus during the cross over?

22 A It depends, like it varies from time to time.

23 Q Just how many people are around and...

24 A Yeah.

25 Q ...wanna be there.

1 A Yeah. Pretty much.

2 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

3 Q And is it anybody to determine who, I mean how come the whole band doesn't
4 show up? I mean...

5 A They don't want to do it.

6 (Laughter)

7 Q Alright um...

8 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

9 Q Do you have to have gone through the cross over in order to, I, I don't, what do
10 you call the people that are actually administering the, the beating?

11 A I mean people who have crossed...

12 Q So you have to have done the cross over before you can give a beating?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Okay.

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Um so um who was getting the uh hot seats from the battle of the bands to the
17 hotel Friday night?

18 A Uh it was I think Evan.

19 Q Evan Calhoun?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Jamon.

23 Q Green.

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Okay.

1 A Other people I really don't remember.

2 Q How many were there?

3 A I don't remember I just...

4 Q Okay.

5 A ...I remember those two.

6 Q Okay did you, did you see, did you participate in it?

7 A Nah.

8 Q Okay. How come you couldn't participate in it.

9 A I mean I just didn't feel like it really.

10 Q Un huh (Affirmative). Well describe what happen with them.

11 A I mean it was just a normal hot seat, you know they just sat in there, sat in the

12 seat and got hit really.

13 Q And the, um how long period of time did they get?

14 A I mean like I said the average, like 3 or 4 minutes.

15 Q Okay and how many, is this while the bus is moving right?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Okay. Um was Robert one of those people?

18 A Nah he wasn't on the bus.

19 Q He wasn't on the bus at all?

20 A Nah he wasn't on the bus at all.

21 Q Okay. Okay and then um did they do a crossing, was there a crossing Friday

22 night?

23 A Yeah there was.

24 Q Okay were you present there?

25 A No.

1 Q Okay.

2 A That's, that's when I said I was with my girlfriend, we decided to get something to

3 eat cause we were hungry.

4 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

5 Q Who did the crossing do you know?

6 A Uh whoever was on the bus and I didn't see...

7 Q No I mean who uh who went through, who crossed over?

8 A I know it was Evan, oh it was one more person there, it was Evan, Jamon and I

9 think (inaudible), yeah the kid Rocker, Edwin Rocker.

10 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

11 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

12 A Yeah he, he did it.

13 Q So he did the hot seat?

14 A Yeah he did the hot seat as well.

15 Q Okay and then he, there was a crossing ...

16 A (Inaudible)

17 Q ...but yeah you weren't present when the crossing was going on?

18 A Nah.

19 Q Okay. Then how did you know who did he crossing, who told you that?

20 A Oh I didn't find out until I got on the bus the next morning when we were headed

21 to the uh stadium.

22 Q And who did you hear made the crossing?

23 A I mean I just got on the bus and then it was like after a crossing, we, like

24 everybody knows like (inaudible) and all that stuff...

25 Q (Laughter)

1 A ...so that's what it pretty much was.

2 Q Okay and who did you hear that had made it?

3 A I mean everybody...

4 Q Those three?

5 A Yeah those three.

6 Q Okay.

7 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

8 Q Now for the hot seat there can't be as many people administering the beating as
9 there is...

10 A Yeah.

11 Q ...with the crossing over correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q It's prob, cause there small area, it's only a few people. Do you know who was
14 back there Friday night administering ...

15 A Nah only (inaudible) I wasn't really paying attention to that.

16 Q Who normally does that?

17 A I mean it, whoever wants to. Like if, like say if you had license and it was
18 somebody sitting there, if you wanted to you be like well I'm a get up and do
19 whatever. But it, there's no like set oh you have to do this and all this, like if you
20 wanna go, go hit that person ...

21 Q They just take turns, like somebody go back, kick, coup, take a couple of couple
22 of licks and then walk away and somebody else go back?

23 A Yeah pretty much.

24

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Okay and uh so you go, you find out Saturday, Saturday from the game to the
3 hotel, did you ride "Bus C"?

4 A No I didn't.

5 Q So how'd you get back to the hotel?

6 A Well what I did was after the game I told somebody I was gonna leave with my
7 parents and I, after that it was me, my sister, my mom, my girlfriend, her cousin,
8 we walked to where the cars were parked like probably about a mile, half a mile
9 away from the stadium, cause we were parked in somebody's yard. And then
10 after we waited for my girlfriend's parents to come so then we all you know said
11 our good byes then from there me and my girlfriend, my mom, my sister and her
12 cousin, we all went to, we were trying to find a place to eat so we decided on a
13 Friday's, a TGI Friday's. So we were driving and it took us like forever because
14 you know the traffic during that time.

15 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

16 A It's so many cars so I got to Friday's; we ate then by the time I got back to the
17 hotel about 11:20, 30 (inaudible). From there I was just waiting for my mom
18 because she was getting instructions to get back to, back home from the hotel.

19 Q And where is, is uh your home?

20 A Uh Royal Palm Beach.

21 Q Royal Palm Beach, okay. So uh when did you hear about what happen to
22 Robert?

23 A Well I didn't know he died, I, somebody told me that he, he went to the hospital
24 and they said it might have been like related to the bus, I said okay that's cool.
25 And then after I went into my hotel room with my girlfriend and then my

1 roommate that was in the room was already sleeping so we didn't wanna make
2 noises so we just went to sleep. Then the next morning like I woke up like early
3 for, I don't know why it was just I woke up early. And then somebody called me
4 and was like "Oh what happen to Robert", I was like "Oh he uh, he went to the
5 hospital why", they was like "Nah he died", I'm like "What are you talking about",
6 he's like "No Robert died", it's like, I was like "Oh". Cause I didn't know.

7 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

8 Q Did, was he suppose to, was he scheduled to do the cross over or...

9 A I did, I didn't know. Cause I didn't even think he was gonna get on to be honest
10 with you.

11 Q Did he ride the bus to the game?

12 A No.

13 Q From the hotel to the game?

14 A No.

15 Q No.

16 A No it was just percussionist and, well everybody who was on the bus was, whose
17 name was on the bus that was there...

18 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

19 A ...for, who left Friday or whatever and then the one drum major cause that's
20 usually always one drum major on the bus and then the band staff, whichever,
21 whoever band staff is there.

22 Q So he wasn't assigned to "Bus C"...

23 A No...

24 Q ...Robert wasn't.

25 A ...he wasn't.

1 Q Is it normal for the stuff that happened after the bus gets to its location, like...

2 A Oh you mean like the crossing?

3 Q Yeah.

4 A Yeah pretty much.

5 Q Okay. So it doesn't always happen when it's, the bus is in motion sometimes.

6 A Oh no it, it never happens when a bus is, you get a hot seat while the bus is in

7 motion and you can get...

8 Q Okay.

9 A ...a hot seat while the bus is, is stopped but never while it's in motion.

10 Q Cross over never happens when the bus is moving?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay.

13 A It's always stationary.

14 Q Alright.

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Um were you, up front did you hear the uh, when Dr. White and the uh and the

17 chief of police said they gave their speech...

18 A You mean on the patch?

19 Q On the pa, the call it the patch?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay. And what did they tell you?

22 A They just, I remember the one guy, not Dr. White but the...

23 Q The chief?

24 A Yeah it was him.

25 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

1 A He just kept saying oh uh I'm gonna throw your ass in jail, oh (inaudible) I don't
2 give a damn, just stuff like that. You hate somebody gonna get thrown in jail.
3 We don't care, like he was just rambling on and on. Make sure that you know
4 don't do it so you don't go to jail.

5 Q Okay. Has anybody talked to you about this...

6 A What?

7 Q ...so, anybody talk to you about uh talking to the police or told you to provide any
8 more statements to the police or anything else?

9 A (Inaudible). I mean I heard like before this 3 other people got interviewed and
10 then they were just, I was like "What happen", they was like "They just asked me
11 questions and that was it".

12 Q Okay.

13 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

14 Q And nobody's made any threats to anybody or...

15 A Oh nah.

16 Q ...told anybody don't, don't talk or lie or say this or say this or anything?

17 A Nah not to my knowledge.

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q Okay uh and who is the bus president now?

20 A Dontae Martin.

21 Q Okay. Uh of these uh, the, let's see you did your cross over, you don't know who
22 the, the bus president was when you did yours?

23 A (Inaudible)

24 Q Okay um how long has Dontae Martin been the uh "Bus C" president?

25 A Two years.

1 Q Two years.

2 A Yeah this is my last year.

3 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

4 Q How do you become the bus president, is that official or is that something the bus

5 does itself

6 A It's just really the oldest person, that's all.

7 Q The person that's been around the longest, so it's not like the...

8 A No.

9 Q ...Dr. White says hey you're the bus president for "Bus C".

10 A Oh no.

11 Q It's, y'all figure it out yourself.

12 A Yeah it's just whoever is the oldest...

13 Q Okay.

14 A ...and happens to be riding the bus.

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Do you think um, uh Dr. White knew about what was going on um Saturday night,

17 Friday night and Saturday night?

18 A No.

19 Q Um who was the, who's the pe that were the uh, is there a professor or teacher

20 on the bus...

21 A Yeah it's...

22 Q ...Friday night.

23 A Yeah it was Dr. James.

24 Q Dr. James.

25 A Yeah.

1 Q What's he doing when uh the hot seat's going on?

2 A Um to be honest I don't even think he knows about it it's just cause he sits all the

3 way in the front so you know you try to make sure he doesn't know about it, you

4 know what I'm saying, just him sit in the front and you do whatever you have to

5 do in the back.

6 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

7 A But he's not really aware of what's going on.

8 Q And is he the only one that was on, on the bus?

9 A It was, I know it's a guy called Ranger Joe...

10 Q What's his real name?

11 A I think it's like Earl Jones.

12 Q Okay.

13 A But uh you know they sit up front, that's, I don't know if the picture man was

14 there. We call him picture man. I don't know if he was...

15 Q Ranger Joe is not the picture man?

16 A Nah.

17 Q Okay. Um if I said, I have Earl Jones and a Tony Le, LeaVelle.

18 A Uh that's, yeah Ton, that's the picture man.

19 Q Okay Tony is the picture man?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay. Where's Tony, uh was he there Friday?

22 A Yeah, yeah he, but he sits in the front.

23 Q Okay how 'bout on Saturday when the, the crossing's going on?

24 A Uh we do it after everybody gets off the bus. We don't just do it while you know

25 there's band staff around. We wait till they get off, we wait about, wait probably

1 like, depend how fast they wanna do it, we wait about like 10 minutes to make
2 sure the coast is clear then you know we start it off and all that stuff.

3 Q Is the uh, uh who, who turns the bus on and has the lights on and all of that stuff?

4 A I don't, don't know.

5 Q When you uh did yours is the bus, did your crossing, is the bus driver present
6 when this is going on?

7 A Not when I went through. It was just, it was dark.

8 Q It was dark?

9 A Yeah it was real dark.

10 Q Is the bus on?

11 A Nah.

12 Q No.

13 A Because there were no, I remember when I went through it was no lights, it was
14 just darkness.

15 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

16 Q Are there ever lights on?

17 A Um (inaudible), I don't think so. Tell, cause if there are lights then it's from the
18 light outside.

19 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

20 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

21 A So there ain't no light but...

22 Q If, if the bus lights were on, if the lights were on in the bus and they were doing
23 that then people outside the bus would be able to see what's going on.

24 A See that.

25 Q So that's why they leave it off.

1 A Yeah.

2 Q When'd you...

3 A That's why the lights are off.

4 Q Okay. Is uh, so who's the bus driver for "Bus C"?

5 A Um it was a lady called Wendy.

6 Q Wendy.

7 A Yeah.

8 Q Uh does Wendy know um what's going on?

9 A Probably

10 Q What would make the...

11 A I think so.

12 Q Huh, what, how would she know that was going on?

13 A I mean, I'm trying to think.

14 Q Had she ever had to intervene or did anybody get sick while she's...

15 A I mean like stuff was like outta place.

16 Q Like what?

17 A Like, like something, like when we were driving buses we have stuff in like the

18 compartments...

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20 A ...up top you know. Like in the front there's usually stuff there that's like messy

21 and um like you know the driver's seat cause you know sometimes people, you

22 don't, people just sit down there just to be a lookout so you might accidentally

23 knock something over or something. But, and then but she knows and she, she

24 knows, I don't...

25 Q I mean has she ever took, instructed anybody on anything or ...

1 A Nah, no, no.
2 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**
3 Q Does she leave the bus open on purpose so that people can go back there to do
4 this?
5 A Probably.
6 Q Probably.
7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
8 Q How do you, how do you get on the bus?
9 A I don't know, I mean she probably, I probably, she probably just, somebody's told
10 her hey we're gonna do this or that, you know you could leave the bus open.
11 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**
12 Q By saying probably it sounds like...
13 A I mean it's...
14 Q ...that you know that for sure but...
15 A ...I'm, I'm not...
16 Q ...it just...
17 A ...cause I don't really talk to...
18 Q You don't wanna throw her under the bus.
19 A No it's just like I don't really talk to her or it's just like hey what's up, we always
20 say hi to Wendy because you know she's nice to us.
21 Q Un huh (Affirmative)
22 A I remember like when we were in South Carolina she bought like the whole bus
23 banana.
24 Q (Laughter)
25

1 A So it's like she, she just a nice lady so we just always say hey to her. So I mean
2 I guess by you trying to say me saying probably I mean if she knows she knows,
3 you know what I'm saying, I don't, I'm not really sure.

4 Q You don't have any direct knowledge.

5 A Yeah I don't have any direct knowledge that's what I'm trying to say.

6 Q Okay.

7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

8 Q But uh the bus is suppose to be locked?

9 A I mean they tell everybody get off the bus you know so the bus driver can lock
10 the bus.

11 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

12 A Do whatever they need to do.

13 Q Okay. Did you have an incident in um South Carolina where, did a bus get
14 burglarized?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q What happen there?

17 A Uh somebody got on to the freshman bus and stole their stuff. That was like the,
18 I don't know, I know most of the people on the bus were freshman percussion.

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20 A But I don't know if they were, like what other sections.

21 Q Was there any uh direction given up after that incident to um, to people uh for
22 locking the bus?

23 A Um not to my knowledge.

1 Q Okay. Can you think of anything else that um we, you know that might be
2 important that you can think to help us out or anybody else that we need to talk
3 about that, talk to that you know would have uh some knowledge?

4 A To be honest if anybody just talk to the people who rode back from the game.
5 Q Back from the game.

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Cause like I say after the game I didn't ride with the band cause my mom and
9 sister, me and my girlfriend...

10 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

11 A ...and her cousin, we all went to TGI Friday's to get something to eat.

12 Q Okay, have you talked to Dontae Martin since uh this occurred?

13 A No I haven't seen him.

14 Q Alright. And have you uh, uh how 'bout Dr. White, have you talked to Dr. White?

15 A Nah. I was suppose to for like you know trying to see if I was able to take the
16 class at Florida State but when I got back, it's like usually Monday when you get
17 back from Classic it's already dead cause a lot of people go home or they go into
18 their classes.

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20 A And usually it's like in the music department you really don't have class, like it's
21 not like (inaudible), it's like teachers, you just don't really have class so.

22 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

23 Q Are a lot of people gone right now?

24 A What do you mean?

25 Q Like out of school, gone right now for the holidays.

1 A No not, not yet.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Next week, like after they you know done taking their finals and stuff but right
4 now nah it's just the normal...

5 Q People, normal people are here.

6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

7 Q Okay. Um I think that's about it (inaudible). Okay um do you swear that the
8 statement that you gave, raise your right hand. You swear the statement that
9 you just given uh to be the truth and nothing but the truth?

10 A Yes sir.


11 Q And if necessary, if somebody ask you to, to repeat the exact same thing that's
12 on there would you be willing to testify to that?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. Alright we're gonna go ahead and end the uh interview, it's about uh 2:00.
15
16
17

18 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

19 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

20
21 

22 **DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**
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1 Okay, today is Thursday, March 22nd, 2012. I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange
2 County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division. I'm currently talking on the
3 phone with uh.....

4 Q State your first and last name?

5 A Anwaar Bonner.

6 Q Anwaar Bonner?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And I'm here speaking to him in reference to Orange County case number 2011-
9 101834 uh the death of Robert Champion. Uh, Anwaar uh, do you, are you
10 familiar with a young man by then name of Aaron Goldson?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Okay. Uh you recall the night that uh, uh Robert Champion uh was found
13 deceased on the bus?

14 A He's a, what you say?

15 Q You, do you recall the night that Robert Champion was found deceased on the
16 bus?

17 A Asleep?

18 Q Deceased, dead.

19 A Oh, I mean I, I knew what happened when I was at the Ale House. That's when I
20 found out what happened? I was at the Ale House with the people I play tuba
21 with.

22 Q Okay. Okay.

23 A And I was told when uhm the band arrived that he had (inaudible) he had told our
24 (inaudible) leader and our (inaudible) leader he like there was the news for it.

- 1 Q Okay. Uh, so uh you found out while you at the Ale House. Who were you at, uh
2 was uh was Aaron Goldson at the Ale House with you?
- 3 A Yes, Aaron Goldson was at the Ale House with me.
- 4 Q And was uh Ryan Overstreet at the Ale House with you?
- 5 A Yeah, Ryan Overstreet was.
- 6 Q All right. Can you recall anybody else that was there?
- 7 A Uh, let's see, Bobby Wilkerson, uh Geto Voulter, uh let's see Gerald Wright. Uh,
8 that's all I can actually recall.
- 9 Q Okay. Uh you recall about what time you all went to the Ale House?
- 10 A Uhm, not really. I just know it was about thirty minutes after we got off like the
11 bus just left us. All the buses like unloaded. I called Aaron about thirty minutes
12 and then me and him headed out from the hotel to meet all the tuba players
13 outside and we walked to the Ale House.
- 14 Q Okay. Uhm, and you're in the tuba section, right?
- 15 A Yes sir.
- 16 Q Would you spell your first and last name for me?
- 17 A A-n-w-a-a-r. That's my first name. And my last name is Bonner, B-o-n-n-e-r.
- 18 Q D- o.....
- 19 A B-o-n-n-e-r.
- 20 Q Bonner. B-o-n.....
- 21 A Yes sir.
- 22 Q Okay. And what's your birth date Mr. Bonner?
- 23 A July 21, 1992.
- 24 Q And your current address?
- 25 A Uh I mean I, I stay on campus.

1 Q Right.
2 A (inaudible) at Pomeno South. 60614.
3 Q 606, number 14?
4 A Yeah.
5 Q What's the street?
6 A Uh I don't even know the street that's it's on sir.
7 Q Campus address, okay. And your phone number?
8 A 4-0-4.
9 Q Uh-huh (affirmative)
10 A 9-3-1.
11 Q Uh-huh (affirmative)
12 A 0-08-8.
13 Q Okay. I appreciate you talking with me sir and uh just trying to, to clean up some
14 loose ends.
15 A All right.
16 Q All right. Thank you very much.
17 A Yes sir.
18 Q Bye. Hey you still there? (inaudible)

19
20 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY.

21 Signed this 23 day of March, 2012.
22

23 
24 _____
25 DETECTIVE DAVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

Orange County Sheriff's Office

STATEMENT

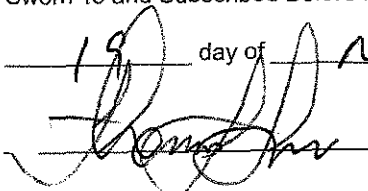
Please fill out in full detail

Date of Affidavit	Month: 11	Day: 19	Year: 2011	Time: 2310	Case #: 11-101834
Offense:	DEATH INVESTIGATION				
Date of Offense	Month: 11	Day: 19	Year: 2011	Time: 2144	Suspect (last, first, middle): —
Location of Offense:	9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE ORLANDO FL				Zone: 50
Code: LU	Name (last, first, middle):	BOYCE, JONATHAN ERIC		Age: 24	DOB: 05/27/87
	Address Res.:	1364 PAIR ST SE MARIETTA GA 30008		Zip: 30008	Phone: 404-775-6295
	Address Bus.:			Zip:	Phone:
D.L. #:	050855335		State: GA	Other ID (Specify # and Type):	

I, Jonathan Boyce do hereby voluntarily make the following statement without threat, coercion, offer of benefit or favor by any persons whomsoever.

On Nov, 19, 2011 around 9:44 I was called by someone ~~the~~ ^{JB} to tell me that my drummer Robert Champion wasn't breathing well after a while ~~IE~~ received another phone call to hurry. I came out side to see Robert unconscious. I went to get another drummer and came back. After that, the paramedics, police, and ~~Dr~~ white came long. The phone call came from Dante Martin phone. (813) 569-8809

~List stolen items separately (with values) in body of statement.~

Total Value of Property Stolen/Damaged	\$	I will testify in court.	Initial:
I have reviewed the Victim's Rights package.	Initial:	I will prosecute criminally.	Initial:
Sworn To and Subscribed Before Me This		I Swear/Affirm the Above and/or Attached Statements are Correct and True.	
<u>19</u> day of <u>NOVEMBER</u> 20 <u>11</u>  Deputy Sheriff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notary Public <input type="checkbox"/> Type of ID: <u>0336</u> Personally Known <input type="checkbox"/> Produced Identification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Signature: <u>Jonathan Boyce</u> Arrest made? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miranda warning read? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>			

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JONATHAN BOYCE**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE VOYLES**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **Q – Det Voyles Q2 – Det. Phelan Q3 – Inv. Cotton**

5
6 Q. This is Detective Voyles, we'll be the room with Detective Phelan; Investigator
7 Cotton and we'll be speaking to

8 A. Jonathan Boyce.

9 Q. Jonathan Boyce. Um, Jonathan, what is your phone number?

10 A. 404-775-6295.

11 Q. And it is September ... I'm sorry, Oct ... November 22nd, 2011 at 1043 hours. I
12 take it by the 404 you live in Atlanta somewhere?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Your address?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Alright. Um and what um, you're a drum major. Right?

17 A. Yes, the head drum major.

18 Q. You're a head drum major?

19 A. (no audible response)

20 Q. And were you ... well what instruments did you play before?

21 A. Uh, I played trumpet.

22 Q. Trumpet? Okay. Um, basically we're gonna ... we're here to talk about what
23 happened with um, Robert. Um, uh, you understand that you're not here ...
24 you're not um, required to be here. If you don't wanna talk to us you don't have
25 to. Um, you can go right out the door there and not talk to us at all. Um, we're

1 just trying to find out what happened and ... and what led to his death. Um, you
2 understand that you're free to go? You're not under arrest; there's nothing like
3 that even though we're wearing badges and all that stuff but

4 A. Right.

5 Q you're free to go. Okay? So you do not have to talk to us. Um, you
6 understand that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you willing to talk to us about what happened?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Do you ... in that, since we're gonna be doing that in that case, do you
11 swear or affirm ... raise your right hand for me. Do you swear or affirm that
12 everything you say will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Um, in your own words cause he'll be here in a minute but we've already
15 ... we've already heard mostly what happened of everything but we just wanna
16 get your (inaudible) ... go ahead and start (inaudible) how this whole thing went
17 down.

18 A. Well um, from what I remember um, on the way back from the game um,
19 Saturday night we were um, all in the limousine that ... that Dr. White had
20 provided for us and um, we were um, we made ... we were making plans to go
21 out um, after the game with ... with the limousine driver. And um, um, I think we
22 got back around ... it was close to 9:00, about 8:45ish, 8:50ish and um, so I went
23 ... we had all got out of the uh, limo and went up to our room to change. Uh
24 however, I didn't go straight to my room. I went to uh, someone uh, else ... else's
25 room. I went to a few female's room.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And ... and uh, we were all ... it was three fem ... it was three girls in there and

3 myself and we were just in there talking. Um,

4 Q. Had you already changed?

5 A. No, I didn't change. I was still in uniform.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And we were um, just in there talking. And um, and the time had ... well I was

8 talking with them and like, in the meantime, uh, the limo driver was calling me uh,

9 trying to set up plans, um, seeing what exactly did ... did we wanna do. And so

10 he told me that ... that he was coming to pick us up at ... at 9:30.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And which ... which was shortly, you know.

13 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

14 A. So um, so well we got carried away talking and um, uh, with my friends and then

15 I got the call that um, that Robert was supposed to be going to the bus, uh, to

16 bus C. And so I was like oh my gosh, like I forgot, you know. I forgot, lemme ...

17 lemme

18 Q. What does that mean (Inaudible – over spoken)

19 A. So last thing

20 Q. that he was going to bus C?

21 A. Well it's this ... it's the thing that um, it's a bus that um, people kinda do. You

22 know? And uh

23 Q. Did you do it?

24 A. Uh, years ago. Years and years ago.

25 Q. Were you a drum major at the time or no?

1 A. Uh, yes I was.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And uh, yeah so I got the call um, that ... that, you know, he was doing it so. And

4 last thing I had said uh, before I had left the female's room was ... was oh my

5 gosh, lemme go ... lemme go ... go try and save him. You know? Uh, before ...

6 before something bad happens to him. So cause that's the thing with us drum

7 majors, um, we don't ... we don't hurt each other. You know? We only try to

8 help, you know, we ... we keep other people away because we're a brotherhood,

9 you know, and we don't like other people, you know, um, you know, trying to hurt

10 on us. So ... so um, and then

11 Q. Is that whats gonna happen in bus C? He was gonna get hurt on it?

12 A. Um, probably so. So

13 Q. Because he was a drum major or just in general?

14 A. No, just in general.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Not because uh, he was a drum major. That drum major had ... had nothing to

17 do with

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. this. And so he had um, yeah so when I had made the call um, I was like man

20 I forgot, you know, that he was um, you know, he had wanted to um, to go um,

21 and do that. So I was, aw man lemme go and, you know, and try to pull him off

22 and, you know, try to save him. So I had um, so I had went back to my room uh,

23 to change because I didn't want, you know, anything to get messed up on ... on

24 my uniform.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. So I had went and put on normal clothes and ... and uh, that's when I had ... I
2 had um, when I had went down to the bus. He um, he had ... well had um,
3 already started. And so when I got there I had ... I knocked on the door and, of
4 course, uh, they let ... they had uh, let me and him on the bus.

5 Q. When you get to the bus is it moving around and shaking because there was a
6 lot of stuff going on in there. Right?

7 A. No, I mean, it wasn't really moving around but, I mean, it was dark. It was ...
8 because it was night and there were no lights on ... on the bus so I just knocked
9 the door opened and um, and I went on and when I got there he was already to
10 the back of the bus. And the way the uh, the procedure code is that um, you just
11 have to make it from the front of the bus to the back.

12 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

13 A. And touch the back wall and ... and it's over. So by the time I got there he was
14 maybe like a foot or two away from the back of the bus. So it's a aisle full of
15 people so I ... so I knew that ... that I wouldn't just um, like I'd be able to
16 (inaudible) everybody so I climbed over the seats. So ... so I climb over the seats
17 all the way to the back. Um, I see them ... well I see him, you know, reaching so
18 I ... I grabbed him. So I grab him uh, to try to keep everybody off of him and I
19 grab him and I'm pulling him and I'm pulling him. And so I see people ... people
20 are kicking him so I um, so I stopped them from kicking him and I put my body
21 around his body. And I'm just pulling; me uh, me and Shawn. Shawn

22 Q. He's stand ... he's standing up or is on his knees? Is he

23 A. He's like um, kinda on a ... on a knee but he was ... he was like this and Shawn
24 and I was pulling his right arm. You know. And so ... and so I was pulling well I
25 had uh, um, my body over his uh, to protect him from getting hit anymore. So

1 Q. Were you getting hit?

2 A. Um, yeah I did get hit a few times. And so, because they were trying to, you ...

3 you know, get uh, to him. So um, but however it was other people pulling him

4 back trying, you know, trying um, to not let him get to the wall.

5 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

6 A. So but Shawn and I uh, were the only ones ... well were ... were the ones that ...

7 that I saw who were pulling. Shawn was pulling his arms, I was pulling his body

8 uh, to try to uh, keep him away uh

9 Q. Did you see (inaudible)?

10 A. I didn't see (inaudible). Um, um, like involved in anything.

11 Q. Did you see (inaudible) trying to help?

12 A. Um,

13 Q. Cause you ... there ... you guys are drum majors. You're all

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. together so I

16 A. Yes we are, we are.

17 Q. (inaudible) was trying to help him through to.

18 A. Yeah um, it was probably a time but um, I'm pretty sure he was there trying to

19 help before I got there. But like one ... once I got ... got there and I climbed over

20 the um, of the seats to the back it was um, I just seen me and Shawn that were

21 there trying to uh, pull him through and ... and ... and keep everybody off. And so

22 um, but ... but it was shortly after um, but I seen ... me and Shawn uh, we were

23 pulling but it was still people pull ... pulling him back the other way. So I was like

24 Shawn we gotta pull harder. So I kinda ... I was like one, two, three and we um,

25

1 and we yanked him uh, real hard and he came loose from everybody else and he
2 hit the wall. And so ... and so then

3 Q2. When you say that he hit the wall, he hit the wall in

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q2. indicating that he had made it to the back.

6 A. Right.

7 Q2. Okay.

8 A. Right. And so then it was over. You know, they can't touch him anymore. So
9 uh, so then we sat him up um, uh, on the floor um, of the bus and uh, and um, he
10 asked uh, for some water. So we gave him some Gatorade because that's ...
11 that's the only thing uh, that we had. And so I gave that to him and so um, me
12 and Shawn uh, we just figured he okay because, I mean, just to be ... I ... I did it.

13 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

14 A. You know um, back in ... it was just (inaudible). I did it. And um, and

15 Q. Why'd you do it? What's the purpose of this whole tradition?

16 A. The purpose? I mean, it's ... it's to ... it's like a respect thing, you know, kinda
17 sorta. It's sad to say, you know, but, you know, um,

18 Q. Did anybody try to talk him in ... into it or talk him out of it?

19 A. Well he was wanting to do it all ... all season.

20 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

21 A. He wanted to do it all season.

22 Q. Is ... could he have

23 A. And

24 Q. done it any other time or does it always happen after the Classic?

25 A. Its not ... no, no, anytime. And the thing is

- 1 Q. So why didn't you do it in the beginning of the season?
- 2 A. The thing is that's when ... that's when I come in at, you know, as being his head
3 drum major, I don't allow any of my drum majors to do anything. Well, they don't
4 ... they don't do anything un ... unless I give them the, you know, the go ahead,
5 you know, and the, you know, yes go, you know, like do what you want.
- 6 Q. So he'd been begging you all season.
- 7 A. Yeah. So it's all well not really begging me but
- 8 Q. (inaudible)
- 9 A. Yep.
- 10 Q. I wanna do it, I wanna do it and you kept saying no.
- 11 A. Yeah. So um, you know, this is the last game and ... and so um, I knew he
12 wanted to do it and so um, on the way back to the hotel I received a text from ...
13 from some people on the bus and ... and they were saying is he gonna do it?
14 Um, this is his only chance, you know, it's the last game. His only um, you know,
15 last chance. So ... so I asked him, Robert, he was like (inaudible). I was like
16 Robert they're texting me. I was ... I was like ... I was like do you still wanna do
17 it? So he was like yes. I was like fine, you know, I was like fine.
- 18 Q. Yeah but do you
- 19 A. Well do it
- 20 Q. do you still have that text on your phone?
- 21 A. Yes sir. Yeah, I don't have it anymore. I'm sorry.
- 22 Q. Do you have anything? Any text (inaudible) uh, about this after that?
- 23 A. No, I don't.
- 24 Q. Who are the people
- 25 A. I don't.

1 Q. that text you?

2 A. Um, it was Dante.

3 Q. Oh.

4 A. Well ... well it was from Dante's phone.

5 Q. Dante Martin?

6 A. Yeah. And so uh, so that's when

7 Q. He's ... what is Dante? Who is ... who is Dante? I mean is a ... is he a

8 percussion guy?

9 A. Yeah. (inaudible)

10 Q. Is he like a head per ... like one of the major guys of percussion?

11 A. No. Just a

12 Q. Just a regular

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I mean you guys ... the drum majors are the ... are the

15 A. Right.

16 Q. are it.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. So okay.

19 A. Yeah but like I was saying like that's ... that's just the part where I just feel like ...

20 like I should've been a stronger person and kept telling him no. You know, no,

21 you're not ... not ... I'm not gonna let you do it.

22 Q. Are you ... you ... you're a ... you're just in charge of the drum majors. Aren't you

23 guys in charge of everybody? I mean, aren't you guys the one that put people

24 on their faces and do cal ... calisthenics and all that stuff in ... in practice and all

25 that stuff?

1 A. Right but with ... with the best of discretion.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. It's ... it's like

4 Q. But I mean, still you're

5 A. Right.

6 Q. you're like the

7 A. Right.

8 Q. Kinda like uh,

9 A. Right, we're the

10 Q. for lack of a better term you're like the ... the ... the

11 A. The (inaudible).

12 Q. the kid ... the hallway monitor.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Teachers are in charge but you get to tell the other kids what to do.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. What's ... do you have Dante's phone number?

17 A. It's 813-569-8809.

18 Q2. Okay uh, well did you make it to the bus ... you say you made it and you were

19 helping them ... trying to help him get to the back. Right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q2. After he made it to the back did you ever see him leave the back of the bus?

22 A. No, I didn't see him leave

23 Q2. You left ...

24 A. the back of the bus.

25 Q2. you left after that.

1 A. Yes, me and ... me and Shawn had left shortly after that because um, after that
2 uh, after it ... it's over. The bus just cleared it.

3 Q2. Right.

4 A. You know, it's still dark and the ... and, you know, everybody cleared it.

5 Q2. Was he the last one to go through?

6 A. Um, yes because everybody

7 Q. They didn't clear

8 A. left after that.

9 Q. they didn't clear it because of him, they just cleared it because it was over.

10 A. Right. Right.

11 Q. Those are the three people that are supposed to go; they went; it's over.

12 A. Right. I'm guessing it was to ... I'm not ... I don't know.

13 Q. You ...

14 A. But ... but like and when I got there it was Robert. And so um, yeah so once
15 Robert uh, was done, you know, I stayed there with him for a few minutes and so
16 he was ... he was fine. He was like yeah, yeah I'm okay. Um, I just um, I'm just
17 tired, you know and I ... I want something to drink. So ... so that's when I um,
18 given him some uh, Gatorade. So after that uh, Shawn and I had walked ... well
19 uh, we were leaving and so I was like Robert let's go. I was like, and you can,
20 um, yeah, you can rest in the room, you know.

21 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

22 A. You know, just ... just don't worry about it. So as ... as me and Shawn uh, were
23 leaving uh, we maybe got to uh, the front of the uh, of the hotel doors and um, so
24 I turned around but he wasn't there. So um, I told Shawn go ahead I'm gonna go
25 back and get him. So I went back to the bus and so he was in the back with a ...

1 a couple people. It was like two or three people. And ... and so he was
2 panicking uh

3 Q. Who was?

4 A. Robert. Uh, he was panicking and uh, he was saying um, he was having trouble
5 breathing uh, what not. And um, yeah he was having uh, trouble breathing and
6 like he couldn't see but his eyes were like wide open. His eyes were ... were
7 wide open so he was saying he couldn't see. And uh, and so

8 Q2. But this was at the back of the bus.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q2. How did he get to the front?

11 A. Well I car ... carried him to the front. Um, yeah so then short ... shortly after um, I
12 came back to see he was panicking and um, um, he had passed out.

13 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

14 A. And so we had checked for a pulse and, you know, he ... he still had a pulse and
15 a heart beat and everything. And so um, we had carried him to the front of the
16 bus. And when we went ... when I carried him to the front of the bus

17 Q2. Can you hold on one second?

18 A. ... I go. Okay.

19 Q2. Okay when you initially got on the bus he was at the back. Is that the point that
20 you checked him for a pulse? He had passed out

21 A. Yes.

22 Q2. and he was still at the back.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q2. Is that the point that you checked him for a pulse and a heartbeat?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q2. Okay that's prior to moving him to the front.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q2. Okay. So then you move him to the front and what happens?

4 A. I move him to the front and then I leave. I go to ... to get Shawn um, from the
5 room uh, to see what uh, we should do. So I go back ... back to the room and
6 um, I get Shawn and ... and ... and that's when I received some phone calls and,
7 you know, he's not ... he's not breathing, you know, and all this type of stuff. And
8 so I'm coming back um, to the bus and um, and once ... once me and Shawn got
9 there that's when Dr. White and the paramedics showed up. And so me and ...
10 me and Shawn had ... had picked him up and uh, took his body off the bus and
11 uh, onto the pavement and they started performing CPR on him.

12 Q2. Okay uh, have you ev ... other than your ... have you ever helped anyone else
13 through this process? Other than Robert and the ... why didn't ya'll help um,
14 what his name was?

15 Q. Keon.

16 Q2. Keon.

17 A. Because, like I say, I got there late.

18 Q2. Okay. But

19 A. No, I ... I had um, I forgot they were supposed to be doing it because I was up
20 there with the females and ... and then um, I was talking with the bus driver. I
21 mean, uh, with the limo driver trying to get our plans ready for the night. And um
22 I got the call that ... that Roberts supposed to be doing the bus so I ... I was like
23 oh yeah, I forgot. So um, yeah I was ...

24 Q2. How do ya'll get the bus ... how do they get the bus?

25 A. How they

1 Q2. How do they ... how do they get on the bus? The bus is supposed to be locked.
2 A. All the buses were open for some reason, I'm not sure.
3 Q2. But this is happening at every game now. This ... opportunity to go on the bus,
4 so are they leaving the buses open every game? Are the buses
5 A. I'm not sure how it works cause I'm not, you know, I'm rarely on there. I'm rarely
6 on them.
7 Q. So did you ... how do you hear that it happens? I mean people talk about it, you
8 know.
9 A. Yeah.
10 Q. This person went through; this person went through.
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. The part of the whatever.
13 A. Yeah but like I don't know how, you know
14 Q. But it happens every
15 A. Yeah ... yeah.
16 Q. (inaudible)
17 A. How they set it up because I'm not the one to set up some. I don't know how,
18 you know, everything get set up at all.
19 Q. Well you've been uh, you're the ... you're the ... you're the dad version of them so
20 that I can tell you everything that's going on is what you're saying.
21 A. Right.
22 Q. But you know that it's happened because you (inaudible) what that person went
23 through or whatever.
24 A. Right.
25

1 Q. Right. Why would ... why ... why ... what's the purpose for him to go through ...
2 did ... you said it was respect.
3 A. Yeah, I mean, that ... that would be the
4 Q. Are you graduating this year?
5 A. Yes I'm graduating December 16th.
6 Q. Is uh, Robert taking ... was Robert supposed to take your place?
7 A. Uh,
8 Q. As the head?
9 A. It wasn't confirmed um,
10 Q. But you have to give your blessing don't you almost?
11 A. No.
12 Q. I mean (inaudible)
13 A. No, no. It has
14 Q. You're not
15 A. it has nothing to do with me.
16 Q. But I mean they don't tell you that
17 A. Shawn actually
18 Q. (Inaudible) ... think should be the ... who should ... they don't ask you who you
19 think they ... who they think should replace you?
20 A. Dr. White does.
21 Q. And you recommended Robert.
22 A. No.
23 Q. No.
24 A. Because I can't remember ... I don't think there has ever been a head drum
25 major or well a person to become head drum major after his first year marching.

1 Q. Oh, okay.

2 A. You know as a drum major. That's probably impossible unless Dr. White just has

3 full faith in this person.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. To um, to do that job. Now the way we work is in a (inaudible) system. That's

6 the way you're deemed ... well, yeah, like mainly. Uh, unless uh, Dr. White feels

7 that ... that ... that someone else needs to, you know, step up and skip this

8 person indifference, the way that we work as (inaudible) drum ... drum majors

9 that the next person in line (inaudible) wise, you know.

10 Q2. Who was next in?

11 A. Shawn.

12 Q2. Alright.

13 A. Because Shawn was ... was gonna be here next year.

14 Q2. Alright.

15 A. And uh, yeah so I would figure Shawn was gonna be ... be head um, uh, drum

16 major so I didn't know that ... that ... that Dr. White had plans to make Robert the

17 head drum major until we were in the hospital. And so he was talking on the

18 phone to somebody and so Dr. White uh, was like yeah, I made plans to make

19 him the head uh, the head for next year. I was like oh, I didn't know that. Uh, so.

20 Q. Anybody have a problem with Robert that you know of?

21 A. No, Robert

22 Q. Anybody ... anybody's paid special attention to him in the bus? Hitting him for

23 purposes um, uh, besides this?

24

25

1 A. No, it's ... no it's ... it wouldn't be any type of vendetta towards Robert but it would
2 be like a vendetta towards a drum major because, you know, like it's kinda like
3 being the police.
4 Q. (laughs)
5 A. We're the police of the band. I mean, yeah, we're the police of the band so.
6 Q. If you get a shot to hit the police you gotta take it.
7 A. Exactly. Exactly.
8 Q. Um, any ... any weapons ever used? Sticks, slaps, straps?
9 A. Um, I know there was strap being used. Um,
10 Q. Any sticks?
11 A. Um, I know they do use sticks.
12 Q. Okay.
13 A. But I don't know if I
14 Q. You don't know if
15 A. if I've seen them use, you know, at that time. But um,
16 Q. You see a ... you see a traffic cone being used.
17 A. Um, I saw one in the back. I saw a traffic cone in the back. I did, but I didn't see
18 it being used because like I said I got there
19 Q. You got there too late.
20 A. Right.
21 Q. Every ... when everybody left they left because it was over not because
22 A. Right.
23 Q. something was happening with him and
24 A. Right.
25 Q. they were running.

1 A Un huh (Affirmative)

2 Q Okay. Now you guys get now with ba, at the uh The Classic ballgame on the way
3 back to the hotel was there any incidents of a hot seat or a cross over?

4 A Yeah Lissette got one going, coming from the game.

5 Q Okay. So from the game back to the room Lissette, what'd she do a cross over
6 or a hot seat?

7 A She crossed that night too but I wasn't there, I got off soon as we got to the hotel
8 cause I was with my mom and my dad.

9 Q Okay, I thought, let me stop you, from the game back to the hotel.

10 A Okay.

11 Q Did anybody get a hot seat?

12 A Lissette.

13 Q She got the hot seat?

14 A She got a hot seat, yeah.

15 Q And then but you weren't there for a cross over which occurred...

16 A Yeah. Yeah I wasn't there for that.

17 Q Okay. Did you, after she got her hot seat did you see her?

18 A It was, but the lights are off on the bus, we were watching a movie.

19 Q Okay were you in the front when she got it or the back?

20 A I was in the front.

21 Q How'd you know she got it?

22 A Cause I saw her go to the back.

23 Q Did somebody come and get her?

24 A Uh, uh I can't tell you, I don't know.

25 Q But you know she got on the...

1 A But most likely somebody came and got her yeah.
2 Q (Inaudible)...
3 A Cause I, I mean I, I was in front of her. Like...
4 Q Okay. But you know she's moving and you turned around and she's already
5 heading to the back.
6 A Yeah.
7 Q Nobody around her.
8 A Uh uh (Negative)
9 Q Did she come back?
10 A Yeah she came back.
11 Q Was she hurt?
12 A Um it hurt so I'm pretty sure she was, yeah.
13 Q Okay. Did you have any conversation at all with her?
14 A I just asked her was she alright and she was like yeah.
15 Q I mean is it one of those things, I mean you know you're gonna go through it
16 eventually...
17 A Yeah it's sooner or later.
18 Q ...and once you go through it, it, they beat the snoot out of you, you know it but
19 you're good now.
20 A Yeah.
21 Q You've done it, you don't have to do it again and you're, and you're free and
22 clear.
23 A Free and clear.
24 Q Did she make any comment that she was gonna cross over that night?
25

1 A I mean she was like the only one left so I, I mean I, you, basically you, you can
2 tell when you gonna do it cause she was the last person.
3 Q Okay. And that was because all the cross overs finished ...
4 A Yeah.
5 Q ...after this game. This is the season finale.
6 A Basically yeah.
7 Q Okay. What, and does, I know there's multitude you had, how many uh hot seats
8 did you have before you did your cross over?
9 A Like throughout the season?
10 Q Yeah.
11 A Three.
12 Q And is that standard for everybody mostly?
13 A That's like average, yeah.
14 Q Okay. So they all get three on a average and do the amount of hittings is
15 determined on who's on the bus.
16 A Basically yeah.
17 Q Okay. Lissette gets her hot seat, you guys get back to the hotel, where do the
18 buses park?
19 A Um in the parking lot.
20 Q In the back of the hotel?
21 A Yeah I think so yeah.
22 Q Did you get outta the bus?
23 A Yeah I got right off.
24 Q Okay did you know that they were gonna do any crossing over that night or
25 anybody say anything?

1 A I, I mean I knew it but I did, cause that's when it happens but ...

2 Q Okay.

3 A ...I left.

4 Q Okay. And where did you go?

5 A To my mom and dad's hotel and we were eating with some family friends.

6 Q Okay. They come up to watch the game?

7 A Yeah, every year.

8 Q That's cool. When you got back to the hotel or did you stay with them that night?

9 A Nah I came back later.

10 Q What, do you remember what time you got back?

11 A Eleven-ish I'll say.

12 Q Okay. When did you find out that Robert Champion had passed?

13 A I was on the phone with Harold and he told me he had, uh he flat lined but they

14 resuscitated him or something like that. So I thought ...

15 Q Were you with your parents when that happen?

16 A No I was on the way back.

17 Q Okay.

18 A So I was like...

19 Q But you were with them, they were bringing you back to the room or...

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay. Did it surprise you?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Did he say how he flat lined or oh crap they, you know he didn't make it through

24 the line or?

25 A He just told me he, cause he was, he was, I mean he wasn't there neither.

1 Q Right. This is what people were saying?

2 A Yeah that's what they were saying.

3 Q Did anybody ever tell you what happen on the bus?

4 A What happen to Robert?

5 Q Yeah.

6 A Um no.

7 Q Is it people that have their general understanding of what may have happened

8 and...

9 A Yeah cause...

10 Q ...everybody just keeping their mouth...

11 A ...everybody...

12 Q ...shut cause what's going on.

13 A I mean everybody knows what happen but I wasn't there so I couldn't tell you

14 exactly what happen.

15 Q Right. You can't give me particulars but there was a crossing over that night.

16 A Yeah.

17 Q And Champion passed and we just don't know why. Do you know if, who else

18 went on the, on the cross over that night? Did you know who was gonna go on it,

19 of, of course Lissette...

20 A I just know Lissette.

21 Q (Inaudible)...

22 A Well two drum majors, two drum majors went through.

23 Q Do you know who it was?

24 A Uh I think Keon and Rob, yeah.

25 Q Keon and Rob, Hollis?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q And uh Rob, who's Rob?

3 A Champion.

4 Q Champion, okay. So you had Lissette, Keon Hollis, Champion and that's the
5 three that night?

6 A Un huh (Affirmative)

7 Q Okay. So you, you knew it was, people knew what was gonna happen, some
8 either participate or some don't, is that the way it goes?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q If you wanna be there you're there, if you're not you're not.

11 A Yeah I just...

12 Q Nobody forces you.

13 A ...I just left.

14 Q So you went on with your family and you heard about it later?

15 A (No audible response)

16 Q Okay.

17 A When I got back to the hotel.

18 Q I know you've been there for 2 years, have you been any, have you participated
19 in any events, not, exclude this event that happened on the 18th and 19th right
20 now. Have you ever been involved in one of these incidents as a participant but
21 you were the, I call it a victim for lack of a better word? You've been through the
22 hot seat where you were receiving the hitting and through the cross over
23 yourself.

24 A Yeah.

25 Q But you've not participated in any?

1 A Nah.

2 Q Okay. You know this, it's, it's, it's a sad situation this event, uh but it's an
3 important to investigation of course. There's a lot of circumstance, surrounding
4 circumstances uh be it whatever your feelings are toward hazing or, or you know
5 tradition. Uh is there anything that you would like to add to this interview that I've
6 not asked you about that you think would be pertinent or you'd like to have on the
7 record...

8 A Uh...

9 Q ...for some clarification.

10 A Just that Rob was a nice person; he didn't do nothing to nobody. Um he worked
11 in the cafeteria for like, well when I was a freshman he worked, well he still does,
12 well did but when I was a freshman I, I live right across the street so I was in
13 there a lot and I saw him, he just a nice person, probably one of the coolest
14 people in the band.

15 Q It's unfortunate. Um like I said the only thing to get you into any trouble is if, if I
16 don't, if it's not the truth so is everything that you told me about been the truth,
17 the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

18 A Yes sir.

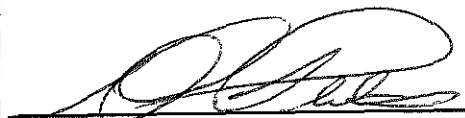
19 Q And if any point and time that I need you to testify about any of the information
20 you provided would you be willing to do that?

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q Okay. This will conclude the interview; it's now approximately 1819 hours, it's
23 still December 7th, 2011.

1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

3
4 

5 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF CEARNEL DARRYL**
2 **CONDUCTED BY DAVE PHELAN**
3 **CASE 11-101834**
4

5 **Day today is Saturday, November the 19th 2011. The time is now 11:59**
6 **hours, 23:59 hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County**
7 **Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigation Division. Currently out at the**
8 **Rosen Plaza, 87, 9700 International Drive. In reference to Orange**
9 **County case number 101834, the death investigation. I'm seated in**
10 **my unmarked patrol vehicle speaking with...**
11

12 **Q. Detective Phelan**

13 **A. Cearnel Darryl**

14 **U. Unknown**
15

16 **Q. State your first and last name please?**

17 **A. Darryl Cearnel.**

18 **Q. Darryl are, are um, are you a band member...**

19 **A. Yes Sir.**

20 **Q. ...for FMU?**

21 **A. Yes Sir.**

22 **Q. Okay ah, are you familiar with ah, Robert Champion?**

23 **A. Through band.**

24 **Q. Okay through band?**

25 **A. Yes Sir.**

1 Q. Okay ah, the incident we're involved... we're investigating is his
2 death. Ah, can you tell me ah, did you have contact with him tonight?
3 A. Um, in passing.
4 U. We're getting consent from anybody to process the bus?
5 Q. Ah, bus, bus, bus, bus, bus (inaudible) consent from?
6 U. (Inaudible...).
7 Q. Yeah, no but she can shoot photographs, she can photograph
8 everything and ah, do everything she can do from outside.
9 U. Yeah she is doing that.
10 Q. Okay. I'll be with you in one minute. Okay (inaudible) ah, just so you
11 um, you all went to the game, came back and you..., I understand
12 you got dropped off at... right there at the front of the ah...
13 A. And (inaudible) bus I, I ride (over talking).
14 Q. You rode the bus?
15 A. Yes Sir.
16 Q. Okay and when you ah, rode the bus back from the game was ah,
17 Robert on the bus?
18 A. No Sir.
19 Q. Okay. And ah, I understand you got off the bus. Is that correct?
20 A. (No verbal response...).
21 Q. And what happened?
22 A. I got off the bus to use the rest room downstairs. When I used the
23 rest room I came back with my friend, he waited on me in the library,
24 in the lobby. Came back to the bus and Robert was sitting at the
25 front of the bus with about two to three other people.

1 Q. Is he on the bus or sitting (inaudible over talking) steps?

2 A. He was, he was on the bus sitting, he is sitting on the bus at the
3 steps. And they like he can't breathe and I'm like what you mean he
4 can't breath. They like he can't breath, he said he can't breath. So I,
5 I checked him, he wasn't saying anything, he wasn't, he wasn't
6 responsive or anything. They was calling his name and wasn't saying
7 anything. And I checked his, his, his pulse (inaudible).

8 Q. Um hum (affirmative).

9 A. I took first ah, first aid classes. I didn't feel anything and then I, I lay
10 him... I told them lay him down on the ground. I gave them to... ah,
11 (inaudible...) somebody else to come. And they... whoever it is, they
12 stay on my phone. They call (over talking)...

13 Q. 911.

14 A. ...call 911 and I told um, my friend Henry that came with me from the
15 lobby I told him to go check inside to see if they had, they had an
16 AED.

17 Q. Um hum (affirmative).

18 A. And I don't even, I don't even remember like if he even came back. I
19 started doing CPR again, mouth to mouth, started doing chest
20 compresses. Um, about a minute later there was an officer here and
21 the office came in and the officer immediately start doing chest
22 compresses on him. And then about a minute or two after there was
23 an ambulance that came and they removed him from the bus. And
24 when they..., they put him outside, I (inaudible).

25 Q. Okay. And did you... ho... how well did you know Robert before this?

1 A. I know, I know Robert, through ah, through the band.
2 Q. Okay.
3 A. Like, I mean we all like family in a sense.
4 Q. Okay.
5 A. But he is not in my section so.
6 Q. Okay. You know of any ah, problems he may have had...
7 A. No Sir.
8 Q. ... (Inaudible...)?
9 A. No, no, not at all.
10 Q. Ah did um, he... was he, any vomitus there or did he vomit while you
11 were (inaudible over talking)?
12 A. Yeah he, oh, he was vomiting, he started vomiting when I was giving
13 che... um, chess compressions.
14 Q. Okay.
15 A. Then the, the operator on the phone told me... I told her she was he
16 was vomiting...
17 Q. Um hum (affirmative).
18 A. ...and she said if he was vomiting to turn him on the side and to wipe
19 his mouth. I, I took off the shirt that I had on, I wiped his mouth out.
20 Q. Um hum (affirmative).
21 A. And then I, I, I waited there and that's when the officer came on the
22 bus.
23 Q. Okay. Okay and you name is...
24 A. Darryl, Cearnel.
25 Q. And that's C-E-A-R-N-E-L?

1 A. Yes Sir.
2 Q. And your date of birth, 03/08/87?
3 A. Yes Sir.
4 Q. And your home address is 16051 (over talking)...
5 A. Five...
6 Q. ...North West 18th Court.
7 A. Yes Sir.
8 Q. Miami?
9 A. Yes Sir, that's where my permanent address is.
10 Q. Okay.
11 A. But I go to school at FMU University.
12 Q. Okay. And your home phone is 305-626-9025?
13 A. Yes Sir.
14 Q. And your cell phone is 786-280-1446?
15 A. Yes Sir.
16 Q. And that's the same cellular telephone that you last call 911?
17 A. Yes Sir.
18 Q. Okay. And there's talked of a limo that... a limo that some of the
19 people, some of the band members maybe ride in or something. You
20 know anything about that?
21 A. I mean there was a limo here when we left this morning, but I don't
22 know (inaudible).
23 Q. Oh.
24 A. I thought it that, but I guess (inaudible) I don't, I don't know.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. We just ah...when we went to the game..., I think that the drum
2 majors rode in it, to the game and I don't know who rode in it coming
3 back.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But it was like the (inaudible) car for (inaudible over talking).

6 Q. So leading, leading the procession?

7 A. Yeah, basically.

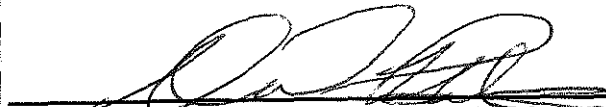
8 Q. Okay. Alright the time is now 12:06 hours, that will conclude this
9 interview. Ah, do you swear that everything you just said is the truth,
10 the whole truth, nothing but the truth?

11 A. Yes Sir.

12 Q. Okay.

13
14
15 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

16
17 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

18 

19 **DETECTIVE Dave Phelan OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF KERIAN COX**

2 **DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-104834**

4
5 **I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal**
6 **Investigation Division. Also present is my partner, Detective Angelo Chiota and**
7 **present for the Department of, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is:**

8
9 **(S.A. Duncan)**

10 Q Special Agent Jeff Duncan.

11 **(Detective Phelan)**

12 Q And we are her at the FAMU police department speaking with:

13 A Kenny Cox.

14 Q In reference to the death of Robert Champion. And today's date is December 6,
15 2011. The time is now 12:48 hours. Uh, again, uh, like I said, we're here trying
16 to uh, understand the events that occurred during the trip from uh, to Orlando for
17 the FAMU Bethune-Cookman classic game. You understand that you're being
18 recorded, is that correct?

19 A Yes sir.

20 Q See the recorder here in front of you.

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q Uh, do you mind giving us a statement as far as to what you know about what
23 occurred during that time?

24 A I mean, from my perspective, I really don't know nothing that happened, as far as
25 like Robert Champion's death, because I wasn't present on the bus.

1 Q Okay. I would...(overtalking)

2 **(Detective Chiota)**

3 Q It is safe that question was you don't, you know your not under arrest. You're
4 free to go. You don't have to give us a statement. We're asking you, you're,
5 you're coming here. You're voluntarily giving us a statement. Is that correct?

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q Okay.

8 **(Detective Phelan)**

9 Q Okay, uh, let's see, you, did you ride Bus C to Orlando?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 Q Okay. Did you ride Bus C to Battle of the Bands?

12 A The Friday night sir?

13 Q Yes sir.

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q And after the Battle of the Bands did you ride Bus C back to the hotel?

16 A Yes sir, I did.

17 Q During the time that you were on the bus from the return trip from the hotel, from
18 the Battle of the Bands, to the hotel, was there any commotions towards the rear
19 of the bus? That you were aware of?

20 A At the time at the hotel?

21 Q No, from that, that traveling on the bus from the Battle of the Bands to back to the
22 hotel?

23 A Okay, from the Battle of the Bands?

24 Q Yeah. Was there any commotion on the back of the bus that you may, you were
25 brought aware or seen or heard?

1 A Uh, no sir, because I was asleep at the time.

2 Q You slept?

3 A Yes sir. On the travel back.

4 Q Okay, did you wake up uh, once you got to the hotel, you went to your room? I

5 take it?

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q Okay, did you ever return back to the bus that night?

8 A Yes sir.

9 Q That night, Friday night, after you got to the hotel. Did you come back to the

10 bus?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q And what was your, what did you come back to the bus for?

13 A Uh, I forgotten Boomers speculation, they was, I guess, doing some kind of

14 crossing or something.

15 Q Um hum.

16 A And I wasn't sure, so I guess I just went back to the bus and see what was going

17 on.

18 Q When you got back to the bus, what did you find?

19 A I find that there was a lot of uh, I guess, I guess there, there was a crossing going

20 on actually.

21 Q Okay. Had it already occurred or was it going on when you got back.

22 A It was going on as I returned to the bus.

23 Q And when you returned to the bus, were you allowed to get on the bus or were,

24 did you remain off, off the bus.

25 A I just remained off the bus. I didn't want to be a part of it.

1 Q Okay, did you stay out there in the parking lot until it was over or did you leave
2 before it was over?

3 A No, I just left when it was, actually they was doing the bus crossing.

4 Q Okay. And when you were there at the bus, did you see anyone that you knew?

5 A Uh, no, 'cause it was night time so I couldn't speculate anybody's, or any like
6 faces to bodies.

7 Q Have you uh, crossed over?

8 A Oh, yes sir.

9 Q And what year did you cross over?

10 A Uh, my sophomore year, since I was 2008.

11 Q 2008?

12 A In the fall.

13 Q In the process, when you crossed over included uh, hot seat and then doing the
14 cross over which is from the back to, from the front to the back of the bus.

15 A Yes sir, that's correct.

16 Q Okay, uh, you didn't see anything Saturday, Friday night, so we gonna move to
17 Saturday.

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q Oh you rode with the Bus C to the game?

20 A Yes sir, I did.

21 Q Did you perform?

22 A Uh, Saturday night?

23 Q No, did you perform on the field?

24 A Oh, yes sir I did.

25 Q After the game, did you'all then ride Bus C back to the hotel?

1 A Yes sir, we did.

2 Q On your side back to the hotel, did you, were you told or did you hear that there
3 was gonna be a crossing that night?

4 A No, because (inaudible)...I just slept on the bus. All I do, I just put in my Ipod,
5 listen to my music, as far as travel wise, listen to music and I just fall asleep
6 'cause I, I was tired after the game.

7 Q Okay, and once you got back to the hotel, did you then uh, stay on the bus or did
8 you go, leave and go to your room.

9 A I left from my roommate Adrian Green.

10 Q Adrian Green?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q You'all both left?

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q Okay, and did you return to the bus at any point after that?

15 A No, sir, 'cause my mom called and she said she wanted to go out to dinner with
16 the family so I just stayed in my hotel and got ready for us to go out.

17 Q You have anything, sir?

18 **(Detective Chiota)**

19 Q Um, on, on Saturday you said, uh, I mean, uh, Friday you said that uh, you came,
20 you came back.

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q You went up and came back.

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q No, you're coming back for a reason, right, to see what's going on.

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q But you, you're saying that you didn't get on the bus. I, I don't understand that.
2 Why wouldn't you...(overtalking).
3 A I didn't want to participate in any forms of, I guess, hazing or whatnot. 'Cause I
4 don't like being hazed. I don't like to haze. I don't like, I guess, hazing in
5 general. I don't like the whole aspect of beating somebody.
6 Q Okay, but you're coming back down for that purpose.
7 A No, I wasn't.
8 Q You just said you did.
9 A Yeah, I came back to see what was going on.
10 Q Okay.
11 A But I didn't want to engage in any parts of hazing at all.
12 Q Okay. Are you afraid that you answer that you actually went on the bus that
13 you're gonna be in trouble?
14 A No, sir.
15 Q 'Cause um, that's not what we're here for. We're here to get the facts and we'll
16 figure out whatever else is on...
17 A I understand.
18 Q Okay, so I need you to be totally honest.
19 A Yes sir, I understand.
20 Q Okay, so who was getting um, hot seat on Friday night when you returned?
21 A Friday night, well I said I was sleep on Friday night when we returned. So I don't
22 know what was going on.
23 Q Okay, that would have been from the bus.
24 A To the Battle of the Bands Friday night. It's going back to the hotel. I was sleep.
25

1 Q Okay, coming back down there, who was supposed to be either getting hot seat
2 or crossing? What were you responding to, you know, as far as what you
3 thought was going to go on in the parking lot coming back down from your room?
4 A Uh, as far as getting crossing?
5 Q Was there supposed to be a crossing or was gonna be a hot seat.
6 A Yeah, it supposed to be a crossing.
7 Q Who was supposed to be getting the crossing?
8 A From my recollection, I really don't remember.
9 Q Who, who were you coming down to see?
10 A I was coming down to see the events. Or to see if they was actually doing a
11 crossing or not.
12 Q Okay, but you knew somebody was going to be doing that.
13 A Yes sir.
14 Q Who told you that this was going to occur?
15 A Actually, uh, um, uh, Dante Martin.
16 Q Okay, what's Dante Martin's role in this?
17 A Oh, I guess, he has, I guess there's like a hierarchy or something.
18 Q Um hum.
19 A And he's a um, the president.
20 Q Okay, was he the president when you did yours?
21 A No, sir.
22 Q No. Who was the president when they, you did your cross over?
23 A I have no idea.
24 Q You have no idea?
25

1 A 'Cause I was just, you know what I'm saying, a sophomore. So I didn't know
2 really what was going on actually.

3 Q Okay, so um, was Dante Martin there when you came back down Friday night?

4 A I guess he had to be. He had to be on the bus. I ...

5 Q No, only what you saw. What you, when you got down to the bus, what did you
6 see? Who's there?

7 A I just saw the bus rocking. I couldn't.

8 Q You saw the bus rocking?

9 A Yeah, so I couldn't put bodies to faces. Like I said.

10 Q Could you get on the bus if you wanted to?

11 A I assume so if I wanted to.

12 Q I mean, was there anybody standing there preventing you from getting on the
13 bus? Is that how it works? Like is the bus, is the bus running at this time? Is it
14 on?

15 A Was it on?

16 Q Yeah.

17 A I mean, I guess the bus had to be on to open the doors or whatnot so I, I want to
18 say.

19 Q Were the lights on in the bus? Could you see inside the bus?

20 A No.

21 Q Where's the bus driver at this time Friday night?

22 A I have no idea.

23 Q You didn't see.

24 A No sir.

25

1 Q Okay, Saturday. Um, you said you went back up to your room and then returned
2 with Adrian.

3 A I just got ready for a dinner with my family.

4 Q What time did you leave to go to dinner with your family?

5 A Time? Uh, I say we returned back to the hotel room like, I want to say, roughly
6 like between 8 to 8:30 I think and then my family took a long time because there
7 was like a lot of traffic, so they told me to like leave the hotel and try to walk and
8 meet them somewhere. So that, I wanna say that was around like 9, 9:30, I
9 probably, I met them like a Pizza Hut or something like that. I didn't know where I
10 was going. So I met them somewhere and I want to say it was around 9, 9:30
11 and that's when A.J. called me from his room.

12 Q What did Adrian say?

13 A He said he got a call and that Robert didn't uh, make it as far as, I guess, he
14 passed away.

15 Q Didn't make what?

16 A He didn't, he didn't make it in life anymore. He was gone from the earth. His life
17 was gone from the earth.

18 Q And you're sure you're not on the bus Saturday night?

19 A I really wasn't on the bus Saturday night?

20 **(S.A. Duncan)**

21 Q Who can place you at the Pizza Hut? Who were you with at the Pizza Hut?

22 A All by myself and then, 'cause it was on I Drive across from like Waterworks or
23 something, I think. I don't know, 'cause I was real aggravated 'cause my family
24 was trying to meet me somewhere instead of pick me up from the hotel so I was
25 going back and forth. So I was there by myself, just calling my family, well my

1 mom really. And my mom's and my cousin and though they just finally I guess
2 just pick me up and I was like I'm stay here and wait so they gots to come pick
3 me up.

4 Q Did they come?

5 A Yes sir. They came and then we went to get gas and then at the gas station,
6 that's when Adrian called me. And I was like mom just take me back there
7 'cause I trying to figure out what was going on.

8 Q What phone number did he call you on? What's your phone number?

9 A My phone number is 850-345-9008.

10 Q That's what they called you on?

11 A Yeah, that's my cell phone number.

12 Q That's what they called you on that?

13 A Yes sir.

14 **(Detective Chiota)**

15 Q What's your, what's your mom's number?

16 A Uh, 850-339-3672.

17 **(S.A. Duncan)**

18 Q So you saying you guys had communication while you were waiting in the Pizza
19 Hut, several time. (Inaudible)(Overtalking)

20 A Yeah, I left, I left the hotel and I was walking on I Drive trying to meet up with
21 them 'cause they were trying to I guess, beat traffic, or whatever, so I was like, I
22 passed Pizza Hut. Passed (inaudible)...and I turned around and I was like mom,
23 just pick me up at Pizza Hut. Let's meet at a central location. Just pick me up at
24 Pizza Hut and I'll just wait here whenever you come get me. And that's when
25 they came and got me.

1 Q Did you go in and eat.

2 A No, I was waiting for them 'cause we were supposed to go out and eat together

3 as a family (inaudible).

4 Q Did you ever go into Pizza Hut?

5 A No, I just stayed outside.

6 Q Adrian Green is your roommate.

7 A Yes sir.

8 Q Did he go with you?

9 A No. I don't know what he was trying to do that night. He was just, he just stayed

10 in his room.

11 Q Did he tell you why, why he was staying? Did you offer him to go with you?

12 A No, just me and my family. I just wanted to spend time with my family.

13 Q Did he ask to go with you?

14 A No. No sir.

15 **(Detective Chiota)**

16 Q Why didn't they just come pick you up at the hotel? That's, that's how easy

17 would that have been?

18 A It would have been real easy but I don't know. I guess as far as convenience,

19 they didn't want to I guess, stick around the traffic or something, I don't know. I

20 really don't know.

21 **(S.A. Duncan)**

22 Q So you were with your family at the gas station and Adrian calls you?

23 A Um hum.

24 Q Did he say there was a hazing?

25 A Did he say that there was hazing?

1 Q Did he say there was a cross over?

2 A He said, he told me that um, Robert was trying to cross the bus and he didn't
3 make it. That's what he said. And I was like what do you mean he didn't make
4 it? Like what, tell me like more specifics. And he was like Robert has passed. I
5 was like you know that can't be true. And then I was so shocked I started
6 shaking or whatever and I tell my mom. I was like mom, just take me back to the
7 hotel so I can figure out what's going on 'cause I don't know. She was like what,
8 what happened. I was like I'll tell you later, but I need to go back to the hotel like
9 right now. And then that's when she turned around, after she got gas she turned
10 around and dropped me off at the hotel.

11 Q He tells you that he passed while he was crossing over.

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q Did he give you any more particulars than that?

14 A No sir.

15 Q When you got back to the hotel room, what did he tell you happened?

16 A Actually, we didn't even speak when we got to the hotel room. 'Cause I was
17 trying to confirm if it happened or not and then the rumors spread so fast that I,
18 we didn't like. He opened the door for me and so I just went in my bed. I just, I
19 guess, started crying and praying 'cause I couldn't believe what was going on.

20 Q I know you're pretty big advocate against hazing.

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q I know what you're saying. Did anybody tell you to provide a false statement or
23 say that you didn't hear something or see something?

24 A No sir. I'm saying the honest truth from my perspective.

25

1 Q So you go back to the hotel. Tell you mom take me back to the hotel 'cause you
2 need to find out what's going on about Robert's passed.

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q And you go back there, but you don't find out what's going on. You got right to
5 your room and go to sleep.

6 A I don't go to sleep. I was just crying and praying.

7 Q But if the purpose was to go back and find out what's going on, why do you do
8 that?

9 A I don't know. I, I really don't know. I guess I was just shakened up. I didn't know
10 what to believe. I didn't want to believe it, but like I guess word spread so fast,
11 like it had to be the truth.

12 Q If you didn't hear or talk to anybody when you got back to the room, what's the
13 word that you heard that...(overtalking).

14 A No, I heard from Adrian that Robert passed.

15 Q What did he say? Other than him telling you on the phone when you got to the
16 room, what conversation once you got to the room did you have with Adrian?

17 A Adrian didn't speak. Adrian stay in the room. Adrian left the room.

18 Q So the only thing you had to go on was that he had passed during the cross
19 over.

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q When you get to the room where your roommate's at, you don't discuss it at all?

22 A He wasn't there. I thought, I thought, we went in the room. I went straight to my
23 bed and just started praying to Christ. But I was so disturbed what was going on.
24 And then I was like, and then as I walking towards me room, everybody I guess,
25 band wise, was just like everybody just go to your room. We don't know what's

1 going on. We don't know if the rumor's true or not so everybody just go to your
2 room. Just relax and go to your room. And then I just went to my room. Adrian
3 let me in. And Adrian was like Kerran are you alright? And I wasn't responding
4 'cause I didn't want to believe what was going on. And then Adrian left. He just.
5 I just give him my space and he left.

6 **(Detective Chiota)**

7 Q And he left?

8 A Yes sir, he left the room. He went somewhere else.

9 Q What time is this?

10 A I want to say I met up with my family around like 9:30, so maybe like 10, 10:12,
11 10 o'clock, somewhere like that. So it was late in the, at night.

12 Q The problem that I have with it is that, um, the video that I was looking at earlier.
13 That sure looks like you in the video.

14 A What video?

15 Q Of the people leaving the parking lot after this happened.

16 A Really?

17 Q Yeah. So what I want you to do, Kerran, is ...

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q Is not to lie to me. I want you to tell me the truth. I can tell you're lying, okay.

20 A Okay.

21 Q We can agree you're lying to me?

22 A No, I'm not lying.

23 Q Well, maybe let's, that's a strong word.

24 A Okay.

25 Q You're leaving things out.

1 A Okay.

2 Q I don't want you to feel it necessary to leave things out, okay.

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q So, let's go back to Saturday, uh, when the crossing is occurring, you're on the
5 bus and I know it.

6 A (Inaudible)...you can think that, but I'm not on the bus.

7 Q Okay, well tell me...

8 A I was on the bus when we came, returned to the hotel.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And then I looked at Adrian and then Adrian was like want to go to the room now
11 and I was alright. 'Cause my mom had called me while I was on the bus. Was
12 like we're going out with the family. I was like okay. And that was the agreement
13 with my family.

14 Q You got to the bus, you got to the hotel and you said what now? They were
15 gonna do a hazing?

16 A As we, no sir.

17 Q Okay, well I didn't understand what you said.

18 A Okay, as after the game. I returned on the bus. My mom calls me and said okay
19 we're gonna go out with the family. So get ready when you get to the hotel call
20 me, when you get to the hotel. I was like yes mam. So I went to sleep on the
21 bus to the ride back to the hotel. I woke up once, no, after Adrian wakes me up.
22 We go to the hotel. Adrian wakes me up. It was like, okay, let's go. I was like
23 oh, we at the hotel. Alright, let's go. Get off the bus. Go straight to our room. I
24 get ready. Iron my clothes, call my mom. I'm at, I'm in my room getting ready to
25 go out tonight. She was like okay. After I'm in my room getting ready, I'm sitting

1 there waiting. And then uh, sitting there waiting, my clothes are on. I hear a
2 police car zooms in the parking lot and I'm like well, what's going on. And then I
3 hear a ambulance truck come in the parking lot. I'm like, okay, what's going on?
4 So this is probably around like, I want to say 8, around 8 o'clock, 8:30 and I'm like
5 okay what's going on? And then I call my mom and she was like well, since
6 there's a lot of traffic, just come downstairs and meet us outside, by somewhere.
7 I was like alright. So I leave my room, go downstairs. I keep going down I Drive
8 going back and forth. Don't know where I'm going and I was like mom, just meet
9 me at this Pizza Hut, 'cause it's not making any sense to leave my hotel and then
10 try to find you and I don't know nothing about Orlando traffic and Orlando city, so
11 let's just meet at a central location, Pizza Hut. And so I stop at Pizza Hut, just
12 chill outside. Just trying to relax and calm down. My mom eventually picks me
13 up with my cousin. I meet up, try to, try to avoid traffic as possible as we can.
14 As, I guess, as good as we can. Go to the gas station. When she goes to the
15 gas station, I get a call from Adrian. He calls me and he tells me that Robert has
16 passed. And then with my mom fill up the car with gas. I was like mom, just take
17 me back to the hotel. Something isn't right. Just take me back to the hotel. And
18 she was like what's going on. I was like, I don't really know right now, but I need
19 to go back to the hotel right now. And she like, okay. She takes me back to the
20 hotel. After I return to the hotel, I call Adrian. I was like I don't have my keys. I
21 gotta let me in the room. And then he lets me in the room and then he was like
22 carrying on, are you okay. I just go straight to, go straight in my bed and just cry
23 and pray 'cause I couldn't believe really what was going on. 'Cause as my walk
24 toward my room, everybody in the hotel was like well, don't know what's going
25 on. People saying that Robert has passed. Everybody just go to your room and

1 just try to relax for the night and just don't really, I guess, (inaudible)...what's
2 going on, 'cause we didn't, they didn't really know what was going on. I didn't
3 know what was going on either.

4 Q So the reason you would have been in the parking lot right after the police car
5 was 'cause you went down to see what was going on?

6 A No, I was in my room.

7 Q I mean, aren't you.

8 A I was in my room, just. After I left the bus from the hotel, I went to my room.
9 After, when I was in my room, I was getting ready and I put on my clothes and I
10 heard the police siren and then I looked out the window, I see a police car
11 zooming towards where the buses were at. And then no more than like maybe
12 like 30 seconds later, I hear ambulance car zooming where the buses were at
13 and I was like well, what's going on.

14 Q So what did you find when you went down to the parking lot?

15 A I didn't go to the parking lot.

16 Q (Inaudible)

17 A I guess, I guess the parking lot was like in the back of the hotel.

18 Q Right.

19 A Where the buses were at. And then my mom, and I left out the front of the hotel.
20 I guess that was the front of the hotel. Where I Drive was at. And no, and I had,
21 that's where I guess, where Pizza Hut and Waterworks and (inaudible) was all in
22 that strip. Like a strip of just hotels and restaurants and I went that way. So I
23 didn't exit the hotel from the back where the buses. I exited out where the front
24 was at, a little, I guess a roundabout area where the cars drop off, where the
25 valet parking is at and stuff. That's where I left the hotel to go meet my family.

1 Q But you're saying you never eat that night.
2 A No, actually I didn't.
3 Q And you don't tell you mom right after she just ... (overtalking).
4 A Actually, she came to the hotel with my uncle 'cause she got word too that uh,
5 uh, Robert, your drummer, had passed. So she was scared for me and then.
6 Q Alright. How does she come to the hotel if you're not, you're with her.
7 A No, I wasn't. She dropped me off at the hotel.
8 Q And she leaves?
9 A Yes sir.
10 Q And she comes back?
11 A Yeah, 'cause she got word that Robert had passed.
12 Q So she doesn't hear about Robert passing from you?
13 A No, she didn't hear it from me.
14 Q That's strange.
15 **(S.A. Duncan)**
16 Q Who would have called her and told her Robert passed?
17 A I have no idea. I mean, 'cause she (inaudible).
18 **(Detective Chiota)**
19 Q She what?
20 A She marched in the 100 back in the 80's.
21 Q So she knows what's going on.
22 A As far as what?
23 Q What we're talking about.
24 A Yeah, she knows about, I guess, Robert Champion's death.
25 Q She know about your crossing?

1 A Uh, I don't think so.

2 Q You told her, I'm sure, right?

3 A No.

4 Q No?

5 A No sir.

6 Q You never told your mom who went to the marching 100 that you accomplished

7 that?

8 A No.

9 Q Why would you keep it a secret?

10 A Because it's hazing.

11 Q It's hazing.

12 A Hazing isn't good.

13 Q Um hum. But you did do it.

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q You, how many times did you have to do the hot seat?

16 A I really don't remember.

17 Q More than once?

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q More than 10 times?

20 A It couldn't have been that many times?

21 Q So then you do remember how many times. More than once.

22 A It wasn't 10.

23 Q More than 5?

24 A I really don't remember.

25 Q More than 2.

1 A It was more than 2, it was more than 3.
2 Q More than 3.
3 A Yes sir.
4 Q And you're a strong man.
5 A I guess.
6 Q Well, describe how it happened to you. How did it happen when you went
7 through it.
8 A How does that apply with Robert Champion's death? I just wanted to know.
9 Q Yeah.
10 A How did I?
11 Q Well, hot seat, what does hot seat mean to you. When you went through, what
12 did you have to do?
13 A How does it apply what Robert Champion's death?
14 **(Detective Phelan)**
15 Q We're investigating. FDLE has been tasked to investigate the entire ordeal of the
16 hazing process.
17 A Okay.
18 Q So he's trying to establish exactly what's the process, so, the hot seat to the
19 cross over.
20 A Okay. I guess as far as a hot seat, uh, just sit in a crouch, hands behind your
21 neck or your head and they put a blanket over you and then you just get hit.
22 **(Detective Chiota)**
23 Q How many times did you get hit?
24 A Can't even count.
25 Q Is it more than 100?

1 A Couldn't have been that much.

2 Q Couldn't be that much? Is there a time frame?

3 A I have no idea.

4 Q I mean, is it a timed event? You did it, you said what 4 times?

5 A No, I didn't say 4 times. I don't know how many times.

6 Q Okay, say 3 times?

7 A You can say 3 times, but that don't remember, I said was more than 3 times.

8 Q I misunderstood. What did you just say?

9 A You said it was either, you asked me was it 10 times. I was like, it couldn't have
10 been that much. You said was it more than once? I was like yeah, it was more
11 than once. So I said 3 times. I don't know how many hot seats I had when I was
12 I guess.

13 Q Is it? What we're trying to understand is there, is there a certain number. Is
14 there a routine? I thought you said 4.

15 A I have no idea.

16 Q I'm sorry. Correct me. Tell me how many you went through. How many?

17 A To be honest, I don't know how many hot seats I had to be honest. I really don't
18 know.

19 Q Is there a time frame that you, when you do the hot seat how long you have to be
20 in it?

21 A To be in it?

22 Q What do you recall as it being? Is it 1 minute, 2 minutes?

23 A I don't know.

24 Q Or just as you say uncle.

25 A No. (Laughs)

1 Q Well, I don't know, that's why we're asking. We're just trying to find out.

2 A I don't know if there's a time. I guess, I guess it's just allotted to...

3 **(Detective Phelan)**

4 Q Who determines?

5 A Yeah, who determines who's in control of like when you can get up.

6 Q Okay, who, who determines uh, that's what I was gonna ask. Who determines

7 uh, whether how many times or whether you go through a hot seat at night.

8 A I guess it would have to be the bus president.

9 Q And that bus president can decide as many times he want that you go through

10 the hot seat part, portion of this.

11 A Yeah, I guess. That's the leader.

12 Q Okay. And who, do you know who the hot, who the bus president is currently?

13 A I just said it was Dante Martin.

14 Q Okay.

15 **(Detective Chiota)**

16 Q And when did you do your, so then you, after you did the hot seat you did the

17 crossing?

18 A Not immediately after.

19 Q Right, but I mean you do the crossing after that, right?

20 A Uh, yes sir.

21 Q Okay. And when did you do, finish your crossing. When did you accomplish

22 that?

23 A My soph, the fall of my sophomore year.

24 Q Your sophomore year?

25 **(Detective Phelan)**

1 Q Do you know when Robert went through. When Robert did his hot seat?

2 A No sir.

3 Q You don't?

4 A I don't know nothing as far as ...(overtalking)(inaudible).

5 Q I'm saying...(overtalking).

6 A Being on the bus or not on the bus or having a hot seat or being cross

7 over...(inaudible).

8 Q I'm just saying Robert would have had to go through this hot seat process like

9 everybody else, right?

10 A I would assume so. I don't know.

11 Q Okay, so I'm saying, it was a hot seat, it was hot seats done Friday night.

12 A There were?

13 Q Yeah, quite a few. So I'm trying to figure out why Robert is not getting his then or

14 has he got them at South Carolina or any of those other trips. You don't know

15 anything about him getting a hot seat?

16 A No sir. I've never even seen him on the bus, not in the (inaudible).

17 Q So is there any way if he hasn't got a hot seat, is there any way possible he

18 would try and do both?

19 A The hot seat and the crossing?

20 Q Yeah.

21 A What you mean try and do both?

22 Q That what they trying run him through to do both that same night?

23 A As a possibility.

24 Q Yeah.

25 A Maybe so. I, I don't know.

1 Q But to your knowledge, he hadn't done a, he hadn't done a hot seat so he wasn't
2 up to do a crossing?

3 A Not to my knowledge, no.

4 **(S.A. Duncan)**

5 Q You a senior?

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q You getting ready to graduate?

8 A Hopefully next fall. After I intern.

9 Q You play with the band all 4 years you been up here?

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q Is this the first time you ever had to talk to authorities about this type of issues?

12 A No, no sir.

13 Q You talked to them before?

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q Reference hazing?

16 A Yes sir.

17 Q What was the result of that?

18 A Uh, my freshman, well, they thought it was hazing but it wasn't, it was just, I
19 guess, an altercation, but then like, I guess our freshman class or something and
20 then my freshman brother, he got in a fight with a another one of my freshman
21 brothers and, and he got arrested. One of my friends got arrested.

22 **(Detective Chiota)**

23 Q For what?

24 A I guess 'cause he got charged 'cause he had a ski mask on when he approached
25 the other freshman brother.

1 Q What was the charge? Was it hazing he got charged with?

2 | A No sir.

3 | Q Assault?

4 A Yeah, yes sir.

5 (S.A. Duncan)

6 Q You been in the band for 5 years.

7 | A Yes sir.

8 Q So there's got to be some kind of loyalty there.

9 A Some kind of what?

10 Q Loyalty.

11 A To the band? Yes sir.

12 Q Are you in a hierarchy? Where's your position on this band?

13 A I'm a section leader of the percussion section.

14 Q You're a section leader.

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q And you have no say so on hot seat, crossing over.

17 A No, sir. 'Cause...

18 Q As a leader you don't.

19 A No sir, I don't

20 Q You've done it. You've been through the process yourself.

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q And your leader.

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q You don't know what's happening with it. With any crossing over, who's gonna
25 be next? No conversation with anybody pertaining to that?

1 A I have no input because I'm not the oldest person in the band. I guess it goes
2 between like years in the band. That, what, that's how it goes, years in the
3 band. As far as leadership, I guess seniority.

4 Q But 5 years.

5 A I'm not the oldest person in the band though.

6 Q Who is that?

7 **(Detective Phelan)**

8 Q Dante.

9 **(S.A. Duncan)**

10 Q How old is he?

11 A He came here in '05. I don't know how old he is, but.

12 Q Is, I mean, the old crossing over, hot seat thing, is it taboo to talk to authorities
13 about it.

14 A What you mean taboo?

15 Q I mean you shouldn't talk to your brothers, you shouldn't rat your brothers out of
16 the band. You shouldn't talk to anybody.

17 A No, it's, it's I guess you can talk to about it.

18 Q You said you had incidents in the past. How many incidents you think you had
19 in the past?

20 A What you mean by incidents?

21 Q Pertaining to hazing that you talked to authorities about?

22 A Just as far as hazing, uh, no incidents as far as hazing. But as far as, I guess,
23 assault, just that one with my freshman brother and he got charged.

24 Q Say if you were a willing participant. Which I'm not saying you are.

25 A Um hum.

1 Q And what would your perception be if you got caught by school staff? What
2 would happen to you?

3 A What would my perception be if I got caught by school staff, hazing?

4 Q Say, say Dr. White caught you...(overtalking).

5 A Hazing somebody?

6 Q ...involved in a hazing. Let's say, what would happen to you?

7 A I would loose my scholarship. Get kicked off the band and...(overtalking).

8 Q You see that happen before?

9 A Yes sir. I seen people kicked out the band for a instance of hazing.

10 **(Detective Phelan)**

11 Q Were you present when Dr. White, Chief of Police and several others addressed
12 the band prior to going to Orlando?

13 A Outside on patch. Yes sir.

14 Q And what did they tell you about hazing?

15 A They were saying hazing is against the law and uh, that you shouldn't do it and
16 it's bad and it'll destroy the band and you can get charged for hazing.

17 Q Did they explain it to you that that was a, did that become, was that as a result of
18 the 20-30 people that were expelled from the band or?

19 A Can you state the question again?

20 Q Is that a result. Was that talking they gave you a result of the people that just
21 been...?

22 A Oh, yes sir. 'Cause I know some members of the trombone section were kicked
23 out, I guess for hazing or something, I don't know. But yeah, but yeah, it was the,
24 I remember the trombone section was like cut in half. Like there was no
25

1 freshman. And then I seen, that's the, I guess, the then the police came out and
2 talked to us.

3 **(Detective Chiota)**

4 Q Okay, so when you heard about this, did you go to, the night of, did you go to Dr.
5 White and discuss what had happened?

6 A No sir.

7 Q Okay, has anybody told you not to talk to us and tell us the whole story?

8 A No sir.

9 Q Are you trying to protect anybody?

10 A No sir, I'm not.

11 Q Okay. So if somebody said that you were actually on the bus Saturday night?

12 A I say that was a lie.

13 Q That would be a lie?

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q And when you went through your hot seats, how did you feel?

16 A I was mad.

17 Q You were mad?

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q Why?

20 A 'Cause I didn't like it. I don't like being hit by like on purpose. If it's not, if I'm not
21 being hit because of I guess, to learn something or by punishment, by like I
22 guess a parent or a father figure, why, why would I want to be hit? I don't, I didn't
23 like being hit.

24 Q You didn't like it?

25 A No sir.

1 **(Detective Phelan)**

2 Q And then did you get sick?

3 A Did I get sick? No.

4 **(Detective Chiota)**

5 Q Did you ever throw up?

6 A No sir.

7 Q How about in the crossing? How did you feel after the crossing?

8 A Tired, hurting.

9 Q Tired.

10 A Sweaty.

11 **(Detective Phelan)**

12 Q Were you more pain, tired after the crossing or the hot seat?

13 A It was more, you feel worse after the crossing than you did at the hot seat.

14 **(Detective Chiota)**

15 Q Did you have to do more uh, of, of the hot seats because you're a section leader?

16 A I wasn't a section leader in my sophomore year.

17 Q To become a section leader, is that, is that why?

18 A No sir.

19 Q 'Cause it seem like you would, you were doing more than what the others had to
20 do. Is there a reason for that?

21 A No. I guess not. I guess, the people, I guess, the upper classmen at the time, I
22 guess they know I was gonna be like a leader in the future. I guess that was like
23 well, since he's gonna be a leader.

24 Q You had to do more conditioning.

25 A Yeah, you can call it that.

1 Q Okay. Well, that makes me understand.
2 A Yes sir.
3 **(Detective Phelan)**
4 Q Okay. Uh, you raise your right hand for me.
5 **(Detective Chiota)**
6 Q One, uh, do we have your current address.
7 A 3116.
8 Q 3116.
9 A Canmor Place.
10 Q Canmor?
11 A It's one word. C A N M O R E.
12 Q Place. Is that a house or a apartment?
13 A It's a house. I stay at my mom.
14 Q That's your mom's?
15 A Yes sir.
16 Q And where's that at?
17 A Tallahassee, Florida.
18 Q And what's the zip?
19 A 32302.
20 Q 32...
21 A 303.
22 Q Okay, is there a home phone number there?
23 A No sir, we just use cell phones.
24 Q You stay there and go to school or do you stay on campus?
25 A I stay at my mom house and go to school.

1 Q Okay. And we got your mom's phone number too.

2 A Yes sir.

3 Q Okay.

4 **(Detective Phelan)**

5 Q Okay, raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and or affirm that the
6 statement you just gave is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

7 A Yes sir.

8 Q Thank you sir.

9 A Yes sir.

10 **(Detective Chiota)**

11 Q Thank you very much. Appreciate your time.

12 A No problem.

13 (Inaudible background conversation)

14
15
16
17
18
19 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

20 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

21
22 
23 **DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

RECORDED TRANSCRIPT OF RYAN DEAN

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE VANCE VOYLES

CASE NUMBER – 2011-101834

VV – DETECTIVE VANCE VOYLES

RD – MR. RYAN DEAN

NOVEMBER 29, 2011

DP: Okay.

VV: I'm going to just going to talk to him real quick. Ryan, uhm, were you on the bus?

RD: Uhm, (inaudible).

VV: Okay.

RD: And I just (inaudible) my name (inaudible).

VV: No, I appreciate that. I appreciate the fact....

RD: Uhm...

VV: ...that you're even talking to us in the first place. Anyway, okay, let me, let me just, let me make you understand, you said you were going to come look for us anyway, but you don't have to talk to us if you don't want to. But I appreciate that, that you're willing to.

RD: I will, I mean because the entire, the entire thing is crazy. Uhm....

VV: Well, Ryan, what's your, what's your middle name?

RD: Alexander. And please, just, I mean my name, I don't want....

VV: It's just I, you....

RD: ...I can't have anyone coming after me (inaudible).

VV: We're not going to, this isn't something we're just going to spread out to everybody. We have to have it for reasons that we, if we, if. Here's the thing.

1 With this kind of issue, we, I'm, I'm a homicide detective. But we don't, we're not
2 looking at it like it is a homicide because nobody would, nobody intended to do
3 anything bad; it just happened. But because somebody died we're the ones that
4 investigate it.

5 **RD:** Alright. Alright.

6 **VV:** So, uhm...

7 **RD:** I understand.

8 **VV:** ...but we have to write a report. And whether anything ever happens with it or
9 not....

10 **RD:** Okay, I just you know (inaudible)....

11 **VV:** Right.

12 **RD:** ...from everything. Just my family right now is my dad's sick, my mom's sick. If
13 something were to ever (unintelligible) happen to me there's no one to take care
14 of my little sister, so.

15 **VV:** What's your phone number Ryan?

16 **RD:** Uh, 302-383-7514.

17 **VV:** And what's your normal address?

18 **RD:** Uhm, my home address?

19 **VV:** Like where we, if I needed to get in talk, contact with you and I couldn't get your
20 phone number and I needed to send you an e.... mail.

21 **RD:** Uhm, 1600 Old Bainbridge, uhm, I guess it'd be uhm, apartment (inaudible –
22 static).

23 **VV:** This is it one here? This is the address here?

24 **RD:** Yes.

25 **VV:** In Tallahassee.

1 **RD:** Yes.

2 **VV:** Okay. What's the zip code?

3 **RD:** Uhm, I actually have no idea.

4 **VV:** Okay.

5 **RD:** (Unintelligible – static).

6 **VV:** That's fine. You don't ever get mail there. Alright, do you promise that

7 everything you tell me today will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but?

8 **RD:** Yes sir.

9 **VV:** Okay. What, what is the deal?

10 **RD:** Alright, well, me, I, I get, I get motion sickness. So on the bus, whenever we get

11 on I have to go to sleep otherwise I throw up.

12 **VV:** Okay.

13 **RD:** So after the football game I got on the bus and I went to sleep.

14 **VV:** Where do you sit on the bus?

15 **RD:** Uhm, middle to the front.

16 **VV:** Okay.

17 **RD:** (Inaudible – static.) So when I woke up the buses were parked. And I guess

18 everyone had you know, started getting off. So I decide, I got off the bus and just

19 because like there was a little commotion in the back, like people you know, like,

20 you know, just talking loud. I had a headache and I had to go to the bathroom.

21 So I got off the bus and stated walking to my room. I realized I didn't have my

22 glasses. Because I put my, when I go to sleep I do this with my glasses.

23 **VV:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

24 **RD:** I realize (inaudible – static.) (Inaudible) was to uh....

25 **VV:** Hold on a second. I'm going to have to call you back. Okay.

1 **RD:** (Inaudible – static) glasses (inaudible) because I always put them in my bag. So
2 when I went back on the bus I noticed that there was some commotion going on.
3 I couldn't, I couldn't see exactly what was going on because without my glasses I
4 can't see. But there was something going on. And I was like (inaudible – static)
5 I'm just looking for my glasses because I don't have any contacts that I can wear.
6 So without my glasses I'd of been stuck.

7 **VV:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

8 **RD:** And I can't see. So I heard, I, you know, I heard them, I heard people yelling, but
9 I couldn't exactly make out what was going on, or what exactly was happening.

10 **VV:** Okay.

11 **RD:** So I look for, I was looking for my glasses and hoping that they weren't getting
12 stepped on. And as soon as I, as soon as I got my uh, glasses and I got my
13 (inaudible- static) and my, and my uhm, (inaudible-static) I left and I went to my
14 room.

15 **VV:** Okay.

16 **RD:** Then I went out uhm, I went out with my friends uh, (inaudible – static), uh, you
17 can talk to them. They'll, you know, just in case.

18 **VV:** Okay.

19 **RD:** Uhm, I went out with my friends Lee Pearson, Brianna Williams, Bayshaun
20 Holmes and oh, what's Jerome's name? Jerome Durham. And Jared Johnson.
21 So after I got my stuff I went, I went to my room. I showered and then I met up
22 with uh, Lee. Because we were all talking about going to get something to eat.
23 You know it's the last, the last night of the band season. So....

24 **VV:** Do you, are you on, uh, do you sit on "bus C"?

25 **RD:** Yes, I do.

1 **VV:** Okay. None of these people do that you were hanging out with?
2 **RD:** No.
3 **VV:** Okay. You sit in the middle of the bus?
4 **RD:** Yes.
5 **VV:** (Coughs.) You weren't there during any of the thing going on?
6 **RD:** No. Uhm....
7 **VV:** When did you go through "bus C?"
8 **RD:** I did that 2008.
9 **VV:** Okay.
10 **RD:** And...
11 **VV:** And what's your, what, are you graduating this year?
12 **RD:** Uhm, the beginning of, uh, hopefully in the fall. The fall or spring.
13 **VV:** Okay. You sit in the middle section because you've gone through, and I know
14 that there's a hierarchy and there's a you know, depending on when you did it,
15 how far on the bus you're allowed to go. And I know how this, I know how the
16 whole thing goes down where as soon as the bus driver gets there she says "Bus
17 three whaaa", and gets off the bus, then you guys do your thing. Everybody
18 stays on the bus. Here's what I want you to understand, we've already talked to a
19 bunch of people. We already know how the whole thing went down.
20 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
21 **VV:** So what you're telling me is that you, you, you got off, and then you got back on.
22 We also have video of the bus the entire time. And nobody's leaving. Nobody's
23 getting on in the middle. It's all everybody stays on the bus, then everybody
24 leaves. So the, the idea of you forgetting your glasses and forgetting your
25 contacts isn't true. You going back to your apartment, your, your room isn't true.

1 **RD:** Uh...

2 **VV:** You were on the bus the entire time. We're not here to get anybody in trouble.
3 We're getting, we're here to get people to tell us the truth. The people that don't
4 tell us the truth are in one section, and the people that are, do tell us the truth are
5 in another section, okay? And I don't know how this is all going to play out. I'm
6 not even the lead detective on this. I'm just helping out because there is so
7 many of you guys to interview.

8 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **VV:** But I don't want you to start out by, by telling me the story that you've thought up
10 since we've been, we've been gone for about a week and you've had time to
11 think about a story that could put you out of the, out of the mix when you're not,
12 you, what you guys were doing in your minds wasn't commit, wasn't committing a
13 crime. Even in my mind sometimes it's not committing a crime; it's just a
14 tradition. You didn't mean it for anybody to get hurt, and you didn't force
15 anybody to do anything. Uh, would that be correct? Did, did anybody force you
16 to go through in 2008?

17 **RD:** Uh, there was some debate.

18 **VV:** Did they physically make you go through?

19 **RD:** No.

20 **VV:** Or did they pressure you, peer pressure you to go through?

21 **RD:** They peer pressured.

22 **VV:** Right. Nobody wants to get beat up. Huh, nobody that went through wants to
23 get beat up on their own. They're not going to go yeah (affirmative), I, I
24 volunteer. I want to get beat up just because. If you don't do it you get, you don't
25 get respected and you get ostracized like you're in the Amish and you, you had

1 sex before marriage or something, okay? I understand that. So it's important
2 that you tell the whole truth.

3 **RD:** Okay, uhm, sir, uhm....

4 **VV:** Yes?

5 **RD:** You, you do say you, that you do have videos, correct?

6 **VV:** Yes.

7 **RD:** Uhm, you, you will because I do, I did, I did get off the bus before everything
8 started because I had a, as I said, I wanted to go eat with my friends and I had to
9 use the bathroom. I actually could tell you;....

10 **VV:** But for you to get on the middle, get back on the bus during all the, all the stuff....

11 **RD:** Uhm, may I interject?

12 **VV:** Go ahead.

13 **RD:** If you look, if you have footage of the entire you can see me. Like because I got
14 off the bus and I started walking. And I had to go to the bathroom. And I actually
15 used the bathroom on the I...left side of the bus sir.

16 **VV:** You, you mean you peed by the bus?

17 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), like off (inaudible – static).

18 **VV:** Okay.

19 **RD:** I did, I did get off the bus.

20 **VV:** But then you got back on it?

21 **RD:** (Inaudible – static.)

22 **VV:** So you didn't go back to the, you didn't go back to the hotel? You got off the bus
23 to take a leak and then got back on?

24

25

1 **RD:** Yes. But I started, I started walking and I realized I didn't have my, because I
2 al...when I get on the bus I put my room, put my room key and my phone in my
3 red bag, my red Honda bag. And I put it on there and I....

4 **VV:** What's the red Honda bag look like?

5 **RD:** It's uhm....

6 **VV:** Does it have a big H on it?

7 **RD:** N...no. It's just, it's just like, it's like a, it's like a small book bag. It's two toned.
8 And it had, it has, it has Honda Battle of Bands written in a arc....

9 **VV:** Okay.

10 **RD:** ...in the middle of it.

11 **VV:** And just for the purposes of looking, when, when, when looking through the video
12 tape, I'm not saying that I've seen all of the video tape. I think that we have it
13 and that the other detective that's in charge has seen it all.

14 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), but....

15 **VV:** So if I can say hey, look for the guy with the Honda Battle of the Bands.

16 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), I did. So I did get off and I did, I started walking and I realized
17 I didn't have anything. And I really had to go to the bathroom really bad. But I
18 wasn't going to go the bathroom on the bus. That's kind of nasty, disgusting.

19 **VV:** Hmm. So you weren't on the bus?

20 **RD:** Hmm? You mean, I was, I was on there when I got back on to look for my stuff.

21 **VV:** Why would the people that have gone through and talked to us say that you were
22 on the bus?

23 **RD:** (Inaudible.)

24 **VV:** (Inaudible), I'll, I'll show you. If you'll look right there. You are Ryan Dean, right?

25 **RD:** Yes, I am.

1 **VV:** Alright. See your name right there?

2 **RD:** Yes sir.

3 **VV:** See the little check marks?

4 **RD:** Yes sir.

5 **VV:** One, two. That's at least two people that we've had these piece of paper when
6 we were having it, talking to them, and check marked. You'll see some other
7 ones here. Like there's X's near all the doctors obviously. There's, see there's
8 X's there. X, X, check, X. These are the people that have, more than one
9 person have said this person wasn't on the bus. More than one person has said
10 that you were on the bus. I'm not saying that you were doing anything horrible,
11 anything different than anybody else. But when you've got, when you got back
12 on the bus who was going, who was going through?

13 **RD:** I couldn't see so I don't exactly know.

14 **VV:** Who was in the front of the bus that hadn't gone through yet? Because we know
15 more than one person went through. Three people went through. So who was
16 waiting to go through? Who was already going through?

17 **RD:** I, I don't know. Unfortunately I was, I was caught up in my, my situation, looking
18 for my stuff.

19 **VV:** Where, but you're sitting in the middle of the bus?

20 **RD:** Yes.

21 **VV:** So all your stuff's in the middle of the bus.

22 **RD:** Yes.

23 **VV:** And they're going through. So how are you even going to get to your seat....

24 **RD:** Well....

25 **VV:**without, without getting hit?

1 **RD:** When I got, when I got back on it was towards, they were towards the back.
2 **VV:** (Coughs.) As I understand it, just pretend that this is the bus. This is one side,
3 one side is the uh, the, the aisle that goes through it. Maybe you can correct me.
4 I'm going to say this, this is the front of the bus, this is the back of the bus.
5 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
6 **VV:** A person goes through here. And is, are people sitting in the bus the whole way
7 through? Or is it like a group of people that follow as the guy goes through?
8 **RD:** Uhm, it, honestly it, I guess (inaudible – static).
9 **VV:** How'd it do for you when you went through in 2008?
10 **RD:** When I went through I got, it was more of a group of people following me...
11 **VV:** Okay.
12 **RD:** ...(inaudible).
13 **VV:** So ten people on each side. Say there's twenty people. Say, say there's thirty
14 people. Fifteen people on each side.
15 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
16 **VV:** And they move with you as you go through the bus. And they're, they're hitting
17 on you. And how are they hitting?
18 **RD:** Uhm, it's just you know, if you, when I went, when I went through I had uhm, I
19 had a dislocated shoulder.
20 **VV:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
21 **RD:** Just from, from prior, from working out before.
22 **VV:** Okay.
23 **RD:** And I told, I told them you know, because at, at first I wasn't going to do it all.
24 And (inaudible – static) and said, you know, if you want to be somebody you
25

1 have to do it. And I was, I was consistently saying no. And then I guess
2 somebody, I guess eventually somebody you know, kind of convinced me.
3 **VV:** Who?
4 **RD:** I don't remember.
5 **VV:** Are they still here?
6 **RD:** I don't believe so. It was, it was a old, it was older people.
7 **VV:** Okay.
8 **RD:** Older people.
9 **VV:** Who's in charge of it now?
10 **RD:** The oldest person, which would be Dante Martin.
11 **VV:** Yeah (affirmative), we knew. Who, who does he discuss all the stuff with?
12 **RD:** He generally discusses all his stuff with I guess, I guess the older people.
13 **VV:** Which are who?
14 **RD:** Uhm, Darryl Corneal.
15 **VV:** Okay.
16 **RD:** Uhm....
17 **VV:** Who else?
18 **RD:** Uh, Henry Nesbitt I believe.
19 **VV:** Is that what they mean by if you want to be somebody? When you said if you
20 want to be somebody you have to go through, is that the people that you want to
21 be, that you get to be later on?
22 **RD:** I guess, not really. It's just, it's kind of like just a respect thing.
23 **VV:** Okay.
24 **RD:** Like we've been....
25 **VV:** Alright. Now Dante talks to Darryl, Henry and who else?

1 **RD:** I don't, I don't know.

2 **VV:** So....

3 **RD:** Like I said, I'm, I'm in the middle of the bus and...

4 **VV:** Well you're closer to the back than some of people we've talked to.

5 **RD:** I...

6 **VV:** So you would know more. If you're, you, you've, you know more than....

7 **RD:** I mean I just, just going based on some person's like personality, strong

8 personality. And when I get on the bus I'm asleep the majority of the time sir.

9 **VV:** When does the buy have, when does the "bus C" ritual happen?

10 **RD:** It happens once, once we get to like the hotel or something.

11 **VV:** Every game?

12 **RD:** No.

13 **VV:** Does it happen before the games, after the games, sometimes both?

14 **RD:** Really whenever they all come (inaudible – static).

15 **VV:** What's the hot seat?

16 **RD:** The hot seat is just like when you mess up you get a hot seat. All it is is you,

17 they send you to the back and they kind of just, they tell you to crouch down and

18 they just kind of you know, hit you in your back a little bit.

19 **VV:** Who?

20 **RD:** They'll kind of....

21 **VV:** Who does that?

22 **RD:** You...

23 **VV:** Everybody?

24 **RD:** You don't know.

25 **VV:** So you're facing the back of the bus sitting down in a....

1 **RD:** No, you're fa...you're in, you're in the back and you're crouched down and they
2 put a blanket over you so you can't say anything and to shield you from direct
3 blows.

4 **VV:** And what are you getting it with?

5 **RD:** Just hands I guess.

6 **VV:** Open hands? Closed hands?

7 **RD:** Open, cl...some closed I believe.

8 **VV:** When was the last time you did a hot seat?

9 **RD:** I did a hot seat?

10 **VV:** Yeah (affirmative). I mean was the last time you were the victim of the hot seat?

11 **RD:** Uhm, actually not too long ago.

12 **VV:** Not too long ago?

13 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative).

14 **VV:** So, it doesn't matter what year you're in if you screw up. How, what did you do?

15 **RD:** Well, I was, I wasn't being active I guess in everything that we're doing. And it's,
16 it's kind of like if you don't participate then you know, you're frowned upon.

17 **VV:** So if you don't hit during a "bus C" ritual then you could end up getting in the hot
18 seat?

19 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative). I mean not just solely on that, but it was because a lot of
20 people thought that oh, that I wasn't being active in it. And uhm, one of the
21 games we had lost, we had left our uh, quad harnesses. So uh, actually we had
22 left seven of them.

23 **VV:** Okay.

24 **RD:** And that on top of them feeling this way about me then kind of caused me to get
25 a hot seat.

1 **VV:** Why do you stay?
2 **RD:** Because I honestly just love the drum. It's just, it's my passion.
3 **VV:** What do you play?
4 **RD:** Uh, percussion quads specifically.
5 **VV:** Is those the four drums right here?
6 **RD:** Yes.
7 **VV:** That's the one that's in the front of the drum line with all the stuff?
8 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative).
9 **VV:** I mean that's that the only, the only, the only thing I have to go on.
10 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), a lot of people don't know what they are. It's kind of funny
11 (unintelligible) drums.
12 **VV:** Alright. Uhm, (coughs), did anybody have to do the hot seat before this one
13 today, or uh, I...you know, the, the Classic?
14 **RD:** I, uh, maybe. I, I honestly don't know because I was asleep the entire time
15 because I was up all night packing.
16 **VV:** Do you know who, who went through?
17 **RD:** Do I know who went through?
18 **VV:** Yeah (affirmative).
19 **RD:** Yes I do sir.
20 **VV:** What are their names?
21 **RD:** Lis, Lissette, Keon Hollis and Robert Jeremy.
22 **VV:** Okay. What's the feeling when, when drum majors go through.
23 **RD:** Uhm....
24 **VV:** Is it different than when Lissette went through?
25 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

1 **VV:** I mean because I've, I've talked to, I've talked to people and I've seen what
2 everybody looks like, and I've seen what, how big Lissette is compared to how
3 big Keon is.

4 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), I mean not....

5 **VV:** Now Keon's six, over six foot tall, Lissette's a girl, small...

6 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), uhm....

7 **VV:** And Keon threw up but Lissette didn't.

8 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), I mean as far as I know just from past experiences, because
9 as I said, I, I don't, I don't approve of it just because I had a incident
10 (unintelligible) in 2008 starting off and I was hazed and I didn't like it. So
11 generally, generally when they start doing this I usually just leave. But they were,
12 as far as I know it was the same. And I know they, they make exceptions like
13 uhm, like I know somebody had a, a pin in their leg, and they said don't touch
14 their leg. Uhm, I know Lissette I believe she has bad kidneys. And I overheard, I
15 overheard somebody saying, "Don't hit her in the kidneys. All open hand." And
16 so there wasn't, you know, I don't, I don't think there was anything (inaudible –
17 static and talking over).

18 **VV:** (Coughs.) See that, that makes a, that makes, see I knew that about Lissette
19 and her kidneys, and, and that's something that you would know if you were in
20 the bus when it happened.

21 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), I mean I heard, I heard them, I heard them talking.

22 **VV:** When?

23 **RD:** When I woke up.

24 **VV:** But again, this isn't something that you can just sleep through Ryan.

25 **RD:** No, this is, no this is, I wasn't....

1 **VV:** You mean you went to immed...you went, when you got on the bus you went to
2 sleep as soon as you got the...as soon as you got on the bus you went to sleep,
3 and then you know, the ten minute ride to the, to the hotel or whatever it is, you
4 were asleep in that ten minutes?

5 **RD:** Yes.

6 **VV:** That's some, that's talent there as far as sleep goes Ryan. It's hard to believe.
7 You know what I'm saying? I mean being able to sleep that fast and not being
8 part of, part of something that everybody says you are a part of. Yeah
9 (affirmative), I, I understand that you don't like it. I, you get, you're getting hot
10 seats for, for, for not participating. But you're there during the time when you
11 know, when you hear about Lissette not being hit in the kidneys. Uh, was there
12 anything about Keon that needed to not be done?

13 **RD:** I don't, I don't remember.

14 **VV:** What about Robert?

15 **RD:** No.

16 **VV:** Alright. So you did not have anything to do with this one?

17 **RD:** No, I did not sir.

18 **VV:** And you left?

19 **RD:** Yes sir.

20 **VV:** And the video will show that you left?

21 **RD:** Yes (affirmative).

22 **VV:** What if the video doesn't show that you left? Now what are we going to say?
23 That you're lying about everything?

24 **RD:** No. Because I, exactly as I said, I got off...

25 **VV:** Were you leaving, were you walking with anybody?

1 **RD:** I don't, I don't remember honestly. I'm sorry.

2 **VV:** Alright. So you got off the bus to take a leak. Got back on the bus to get your
3 glasses, and then you got off?

4 **RD:** Yes.

5 **VV:** And you don't know who was in the middle of going through when you went,
6 when you went on to get your glasses in the middle? They were already towards
7 the back?

8 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative).

9 **VV:** And uhm, on the way back did, did you guys have a conversation of, did they
10 have a conversation about what had happened and....when did you find out that
11 Robert was dead?

12 **RD:** I found out aft...after I got back to my room I took a shower and met up with my
13 friend Lee. And then when we were, when we were heading out uhm, s...I, I saw
14 Darryl uh, run by and say. And I heard him, like I heard him like talking. And like
15 he was kind of in a panic. And I was just kind of looking like. And then I heard
16 him say, "Oh, man, he's hurt." And I just kind of ignored it and just kept going
17 about my business. And then we got, and then we were in the lobby. Then we
18 heard that he had been taken to the hospital. And hours later, or whatever the
19 time frame was. Then we heard that we were, we were sitting at Bahama Mama
20 eating and someone called uhm, DeShawn and was like Robert had passed. So,
21 and we were kind of just uh, won...we, at first we were just like you know, is that
22 true or it is just a rumor. And then so everyone made some calls. And then
23 everyone's kind of hearing the same thing. After that we, after that we rush back
24 to the hotel and....

25 **VV:** You didn't see him getting CPR getting done on him?

1 **RD:** No.

2 **VV:** You never knew anything about him being any problems at all until you heard

3 that he was gone already?

4 **RD:** Yes.

5 **VV:** Okay.

6 **RD:** And....

7 **VV:** What's it like on the bus when you're going through a, when you're running

8 through?

9 **RD:** When I went through?

10 **VV:** Yeah (affirmative).

11 **RD:** It was just, it was...

12 **VV:** I mean how hot it is, cold it is? Is the bus on? Bus of? What's, what's the deal?

13 **RD:** The bus is off I believe. Uhm, it's just, it's, I mean it gets how from like people

14 sweating and everything.

15 **VV:** What about the bus driver? Did she know about it?

16 **RD:** I do believe so, yes sir.

17 **VV:** Why do you think she knows about it?

18 **RD:** Just because there's no way something like this could happen and you not know

19 about it and it being on your bus. There's....

20 **VV:** She ever been in there when it's happened?

21 **RD:** Yes sir.

22 **VV:** She's been in, was she in there when you, when you went through? Is she the

23 same bus driver that was there when you were there?

24 **RD:** Yes.

25

1 **VV:** So for the past three years she's been the bus driver on that bus? And you've
2 seen her in the bus when it's gone on?
3 **RD:** Yes.
4 **VV:** Okay. Was she present this time?
5 **RD:** I don't, I don't believe so. I don't remember seeing her. But when I got on I
6 couldn't see because I don't, I didn't have my glasses. And I just saw like shapes
7 instead of actual people.
8 **VV:** Okay. Anybody that you know that she was on there you know for sure?
9 (Talking on phone to unknown person.) 10-3. (Resumes speaking with Mr.
10 Dean.
11 **RD:** Uhm, I know uhm, I can speculate but I...
12 **VV:** I don't want you to speculate.
13 **RD:** (Inaudible).
14 **VV:** Okay. Do you swear everything you told me, and again, your name is Ryan
15 Dean. Do you swear everything you told me is the truth?
16 **RD:** Yes sir.
17 **VV:** Okay. That's it man.
18 **RD:** (Inaudible.)
19 **VV:** I told you that, that your name will be on a report as far as a witness goes, but
20 we're not going to be releasing it to the news. We're not going to be doing
21 anything like that. You're, you're a witness. You're saying that you weren't there
22 wouldn't happen, but you know about the stuff that did happen and you were able
23 to provide past history.
24 **RD:** Yes.
25

1 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), I mean it is, do you mind if we just talk for a little bit?

2 **VV:** Sure.

3 **RD:** Like it was when everything happened, it was, like and I heard everything,
4 because I was friends with Robert. I knew him. He was, he was a good person.

5 **VV:** Did he want to go through?

6 **RD:** Uhm, it, it's, it's kind of weird because uhm (inaudible – static) anything like
7 (inaudible) anything, he didn't do anything. But earlier that weekend I had talked
8 to him and he was like, he was like, "Oh, I'll see you guys on the bus." And I was
9 kind of just like, "Why? You, why?" And like he said it just so nonchalant like I
10 mean I thought, I thought that was weird, out of character for him just from the
11 type of person he was. Because he never, he never approved of anything like
12 that. Never, you know, (inaudible) so I'm just kind of....

13 **VV:** Why would you say that that way? Why would he say that to you if you're not
14 one of the people that goes on the bus on a regular basis. Why would he say
15 Why would he say he's going to see you on the bus?

16 **RD:** (Inaudible – static) like because he, people know who, who's on the bus, who did
17 it and everything, so they kind of categorize everybody as uhm, even though you
18 know, not everybody participates. People, a lot of people, some people just go
19 through just to earn their respect and then after that that's it. There's really no....

20 **VV:** Is that who you are?

21 **RD:** Excuse me?

22 **VV:** Is that what you do?

23 **RD:** Yes. I just went through (inaudible – static). I aspire to be a leader in this
24 section. I want to a section leader one day. And I've had many talks with people
25

1 and they're just like you can't be a, you can't be a leader in this section without
2 being in this section. And you're like it's kind of....

3 **VV:** Who makes the decision to make you a leader or not?

4 **RD:** Dr. James. But the thing is he, I've seen people that he's put as, in the
5 leadership role and the rest of the section has disrespected him like blatantly and
6 not listened to him all because...

7 **VV:** And what does Dr. James say about that?

8 **RD:** Hmm? Dr. James doesn't know it at all. He's, and he'll (inaudible).

9 **VV:** So why would he take somebody out of a leadership position if they don't have
10 the respect of everybody else?

11 **RD:** He's never (inaudible).

12 **VV:** So then you don't need to go through it to be in a leadership position. You're just
13 going to get disrespected while you're in that leadership position.

14 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), right.

15 **VV:** But you're still the leader.

16 **RD:** Correct.

17 **VV:** So why go through it then? Just so you don't have to deal with the hassle?

18 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), because....

19 **VV:** That's not a leader Ryan. That's not a leader. You, you want to aspire to be a
20 leader. And we're just talking frank, right?

21 **RD:** Yes sir.

22 **VV:** That's not what a leader does. A leader doesn't condone crap like this. You
23 shouldn't have to get beat down to play in a band. You shouldn't have to get
24 beat down to do anything unless you're in prison, okay? That's prison warfare.
25 It's not, not human, human warfare. You're in a band. You're representing the

1 school. And if you want to be a leader you stop that from happening. That's how
2 you be a leader. No matter whether or not somebody else, you're not going to, if
3 you want to be a leader you uh, you might as well get ready right now. People
4 are not going to like you and then people are going to disrespect for your,
5 disrespect you. That's, that's what the drum majors are, right?

6 **RD:** Yes sir.

7 **VV:** And people don't like the drum majors. Every chance they get a chance to, to hit
8 one of them they do it in this. The only time they get to do it is here. And
9 everybody we've talked to the drum majors got it worse in going through "Bus C."
10 If you're going through "Bus C" and you're a drum major you're going to get
11 worse then it, then if you're a percussion. Everybody but percussion is going to
12 get it worse because you're not part of the gang. Gang being the operative word
13 here. They actually told us, drum majors are like the police. When you get a
14 chance to hit one you do it. That was actually told to us. And that's what I'm
15 saying, you want to be a leader? You're not going to be respected by thugs
16 being gang members. You are going to get respected by the leaders, by their
17 people of quality. But if you fall in with the ones that aren't going to respect
18 because somebody didn't go through some stupid ritual, you're not a leader. You
19 belong for, you belong in the bottom with everybody else. And I'm being frank
20 with you. Would you agree with that?

21 **RD:** Yes sir.

22 **VV:** Then what's your job that, what's the job that you need to do to be a leader, if this
23 band even continues, is to stand up and say no, this isn't going to happen.
24 Because it's wrong. You didn't like it when it happened to you. And now
25 somebody's dead because of a tradition. And this isn't the first. We had one at

1 U.C.F. She drank herself to death. Tradition. Had another one in another
2 school. The whole reason that this whole thing is a problem in the first place
3 because he got beat to death and gone on kidney dialysis. Uh, you, you
4 shouldn't have to tell somebody hey, I got a kidney problem and I've got a broken
5 collar bone to go play in the band. It's ridiculous.

6 **RD:** (Inaudible.)

7 **VV:** I appreciate the fact that you talked to us Ryan.

8 **RD:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **VV:** But you want to know what a leader is? You know what a leader is. I see the,
10 and I imagine that you're in good shape. You got, well you've had wrestling on
11 you. You, you've done some stuff that, you look like a smart, bright, educated
12 guy. Way too smart to be doing this. To be involved in any way, shape or form,
13 or letting people go through it; your friends. Because Robert was your friend,
14 right?

15 **RD:** Yes sir.

16 **VV:** You could have said no, what, what are you doing that, you could have actually
17 said, why are you doing that?

18 **RD:** And you know I kind of just, I kind of thought about that when he, when he said
19 you know, what he said. I didn't know, like when he said it he kind of said it like
20 jokingly, like nonchalant, "Oh, I'll see y'all later." And it was kind of like I did, I did
21 have that thought then why, why, why would you, you know, why would you
22 (inaudible).

23 **VV:** Well nobody's going to stop him. Nobody's going to stand up next to him and
24 say no, he doesn't need to do it. Those aren't leaders man. Leaders step up.
25 And I, I don't mean to be harsh, but it is what it is.

1 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative), just I don't know. Like I kind of feel like you know, if I would
2 have said something to him like hey, you....

3 **VV:** If you would have said something? If, if, you know, Dante had said no, if, if the
4 head drum major had said no, the he'd be alive. This is something you're going
5 to be, this is something that you're going to deal with the rest of your life. This is,
6 this is a turning point right here Ryan. Sometimes the hard decisions, they're
7 hard decisions because they're hard. You got to stand up and be the man and
8 tell people no. Do you think this job is fun for us? People hate me for what I, for
9 what I do. But then they want me there when something bad happens with them.
10 Does that make any sense?

11 **RD:** Yes sir.

12 **VV:** I, I wish you luck man.

13 **RD:** Okay. And just this question because I don't know, you said people were, said I
14 was there, but now from, from your personal (inaudible)...

15 **VV:** From what you're saying, you're saying you weren't there. I can't, I can't take
16 you from anything other than what you said to me. You swore that you're telling
17 me the truth.

18 **RD:** Yes sir.

19 **VV:** We'll look at the video. We'll s...try to find that, that backpack that you were
20 wearing to see that you left before everybody else, and that's what the detective
21 will go on. We can only go with the facts that we have. (Sighs.) Whether or not
22 you were on there, I mean there's a lot of people on that bus. You, you've, I
23 know by, by, the, by the way you've reacted now that you feel some kind of
24 blame for what happened for not helping, for not stepping up.

25 **RD:** Yeah (affirmative).

1 A 'Cause you know just... everything going on it's just like I don't.. I don't want to
2 get caught up in something that I wasn't part of.

3 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

4 Q Yeah.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6 Q Okay.

7 A I know this is a serious matter.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Some... like there's gonna be consequences four people got put out of school. I
10 can't, I can't afford to do that. Especially if I know that I didn't do anything to
11 hinder him. If anything I tried to help him.

12 Q Okay.

13 A And that's, that's.. that was my only thing like ...

14 Q Well until you told us that we wouldn't have known it.

15 A Yeah I mean..

16 Q And we got get it straight and I hate to use the expression straight from the
17 horse's mouth. And if you're willing to stand by that then that's what I take as, as
18 being the truth. 'Cause you know I mean as I said, we.. I knew what you were
19 trying to do was bits and pieces and it's never gonna work. The only way it'll
20 work is if you tell me and then I say, okay I can assess what's occurred here
21 because that means um, that's solely the truth. And then when that piece
22 (Inaudible)... back and forth yeah.

23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative) So,

1 Q Okay.

2 A From, from where I am here what is ...

3 Q Well is it... let me ask you this. Is there anything else that you, you want to tell
4 us as far as your, your statement here?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay, let me ask you this though. If, if there comes up something else or you
7 feel that you want to talk to us. Would you, would you one would you feel free to
8 ah, come and talk to us again and can we talk ah, have that opportunity to talk to
9 you again?

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Um, can I..

13 Q And if you want to I'm gonna give you my card and if you want to you pick up the
14 phone and you give me a call anytime that you want. I, I'll give you that
15 opportunity in addition. Um, and ah, but as far as your statement and all I'll go
16 ahead and I'll end the statement and we'll talk about your um, ah, your questions
17 as far as that.

18 A Okay.

19 Q Okay. Alright um, we'll just keep it rolling but that's as far as your statement. A
20 far as what's gonna happen this point on. I don't know. We are gonna continue
21 ah, now that I feel I have your, your full statement okay, I can take that and apply
22 it to what's actually occurred here. It we had like the ah, Corporal to say, we
23 don't have all the facts. Until you gave us this much information and what your
24
25

1 responsibility is and where you were at. I didn't have this information complete.
2 You were trying to get it out there we're here okay let's go forward from there.
3 We're gonna do this for everybody okay. That's why it's so important whether
4 these people that these other people are on there are so important for you to
5 remember. 'Cause I have to go to them and give them the same opportunity. I
6 know people get scared. I know people forget. And say oh that's right so and so
7 was there. So we want to make sure that everybody has the same opportunity.
8 Okay. If anything occurs we're gonna tell you what's gonna happen okay. I don't
9 know what the next step is. We are gonna finish this investigation there's a
10 number of us involved in it. And then once a determination is to how this was
11 going to you know finalize. You will be included in that and you will be notified as
12 to how that will ... You are now the witness okay. How that changes I don't have
13 that you know as to what if anybody's gonna be charged and or who's gonna be
14 charged. When that point comes we're not ah, I will treat you with due respect.
15 Ah, and let you know in advance as to what is the next step's gonna be. I just
16 don't know what that is 'cause I'm not finished.

17
18 A Okay I didn't..

19 Q Okay.

20 A And you haven't said you know witness I just want to make sure it's... I don't.. as
21 I said, you know 'cause I wanted to come to you guys and tell you um, I did the
22 same thing last time.

23
24 Q Right.

1 A (Inaudible)... talking. I just want to make sure that I just want to make sure that
2 no one puts me like when people are.. when ... 'cause somebody's gonna you
3 know.. I don't want them to try to drag anyone else into it. Whatever 'cause I
4 know I've heard from certain things that you know all people keep your mouth
5 shut don't say this, don't say that or whatever and I don't want it to be, oh well I
6 heard that Ryan went there on his own and told what he knew. And then don't
7 want anything to come back against me like that so.

8
9 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

10 Q Well, when we talk to Henry, when we talk to Aaron, when we talk to these
11 people we're not gonna say you know Ryan came in here and told us you did
12 this. That's not the way work. So, don't worry about that.

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Right. We give 'em the same opportunity you get. So, if you swear by this
15 statement that this is being the truth. Then I take that statement then I go talk to
16 everybody else. Okay and then we put the pieces together. We're not gonna
17 change it. I can remember some people don't remember everything. But for the
18 most part they know exactly what ... just like here. You've done some explicit
19 details. Which are excellent that will help us for Robert's sake do determine what
20 exactly happened. If those people choose to do the exact same thing that
21 everybody will have a better picture that's exactly what occurrence and we can
22 make a judgment um, as to what how that applies to what the next step is going
23 to be. It's not an easy process by any means. Those that say oh I'm not gonna
24 say anything or I'm not.. well guess what? Then I don't have anything in that
25

1 section for them . All I have is all this other stuff and that's not up for me totally to
2 decide is how that is. But if I have everybody saying what their part is one guy
3 saying, I had no part into it and while they're in the middle of it. They're right
4 here in the middle then everybody gets credit for telling me theirs and the person
5 that has nothing, then I make that, we let that. that.. that you know other's the
6 information that goes forward for people to make ah judgment on that,

7
8 A Okay.

9 Q Okay. I think that's the fairest way to do it.

10 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

11 Q Have him sign that.

12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

13 Q Yeah. You just go ahead and put your ah, sign your name then print it down
14 here. This is your drawing. We're just gonna hold that as, as a reference.

15 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

16 Q And we're not gonna show that to these other people either.

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q No.

19 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

20 Q So,

21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

22 Q We don't need to. And then just put today's date please.

23 A (signing) And today's...

24 Q Today's the 6th.

1 A ...6th?

2 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

3 A Okay.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And ...

6 Q Go ahead you have a question?

7 A Um, yeah just.. instead of you know just to make sure that everything goes well.
8 Like would you recommend that I talk to a lawyer or anything? Or...
9

10 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

11 Q We.. we can't give you that kind of advise. Um, talk to your parents and ...

12 A I'm... I'm just.. I mean..

13 Q (Inaudible)...

14 A I just ...

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Yeah we can't give you advise on as to your.. you came in here on your own free
17 will. You were free to leave at anytime. The reason.. and we appreciate you
18 wanting to give us a statement. So, we're treating that as a witness. Until that
19 changes I don't have any.. reason to, to do anything more then to treat that as,
20 as the facts that you [presented to us. Um, you.. did we already have him swear
21 to this?
22

23 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

24 Q (No verbal response.)

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Um, raise your right hand. Did you swear this statement that you just given is the
3 truth and nothing but the truth?

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q And if necessary would you swear to exact.. ah, restate the exact same
6 information if asked to do so?

7 A Yes sir.

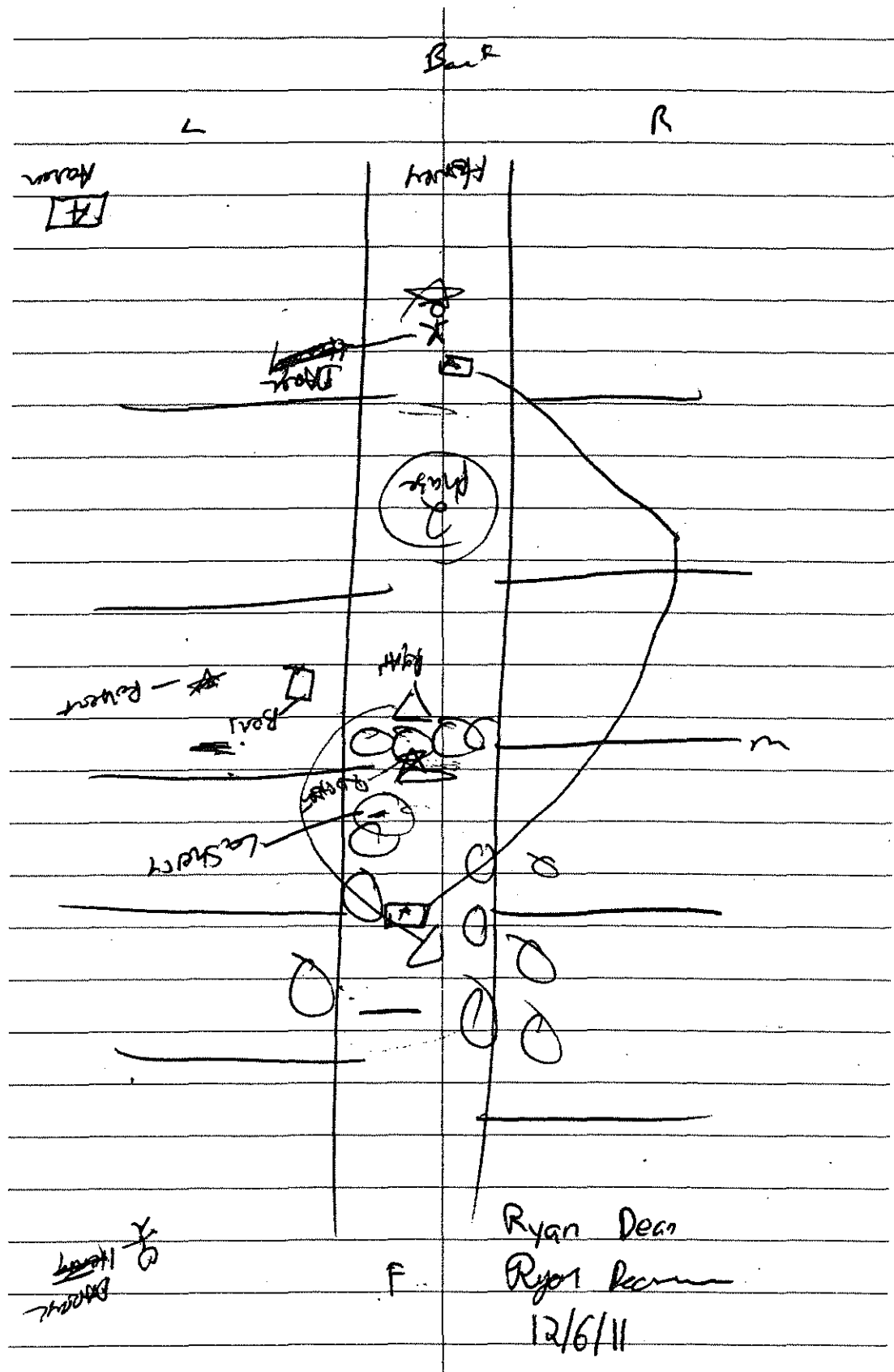
8 Q Okay. Ah, we'll go ahead and end it, it's about 5... 3:41.
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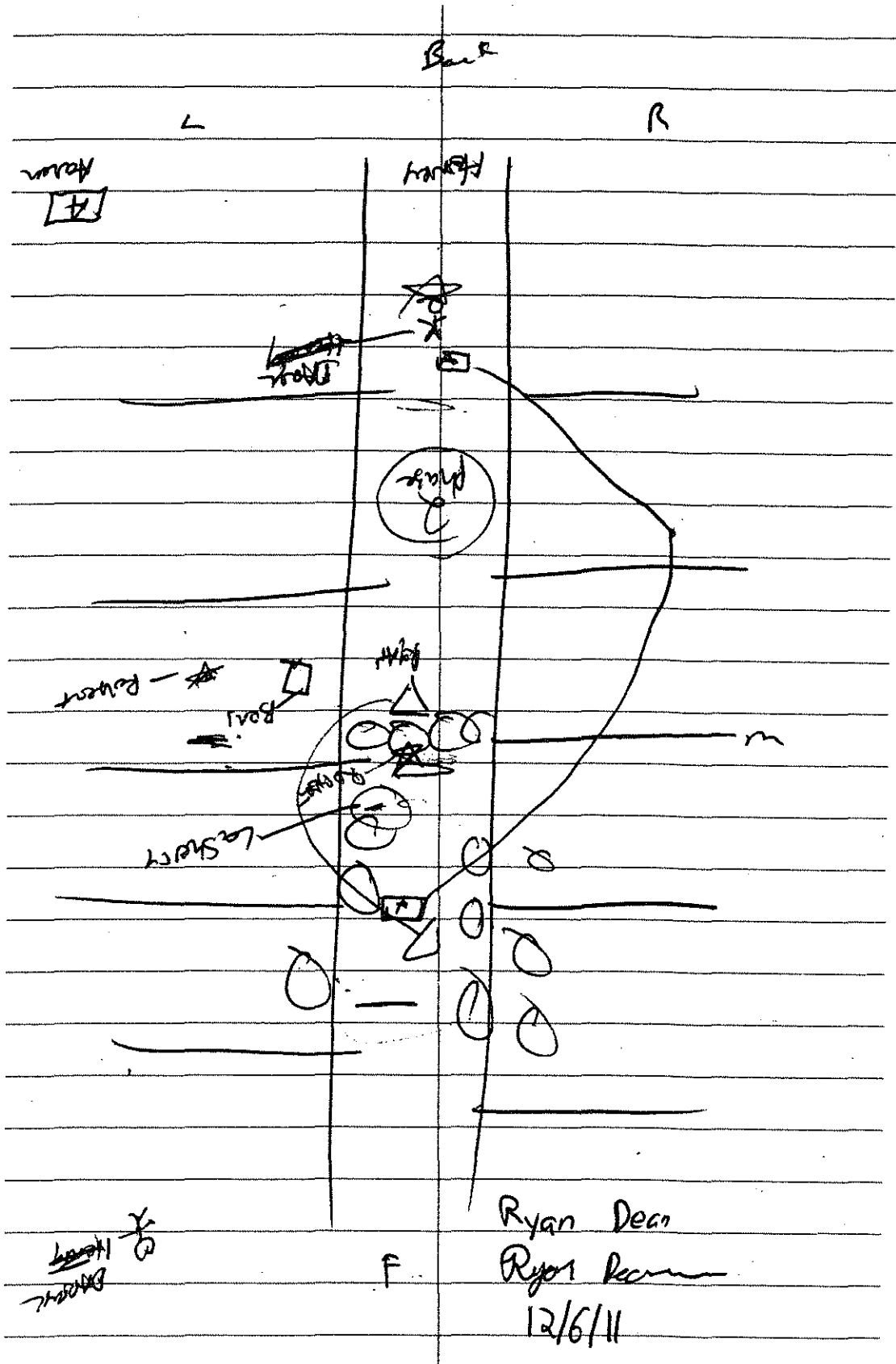
1
2 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

3 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012

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6 _____
7 Detective David Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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Redacted per FS 1002.221 &
1002.225 (student records)





1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JERROD DEASE**
2 **CONDUCTED BY VANCE VOYLES**
3 **CASE 11-101834**
4

5 **This is Detective Voyles (inaudible) with Detective Phelan and**
6 **investigator Cotton speaking to Jerrod Dease in reference to case**
7 **number 2011-101834. Ah, it is alright, November ah, 22nd, at 9:36**
8 **hours (phone beeping...). And we're located at the FMU Law**
9 **Enforcement Department.**
10

11 **Q. Detective Voyles**

12 **DP. Detective Phelan**

13 **A. Jerrod Dease**
14

15 **Q. Um, just to get some information in the beginning (over talking).**

16 **A. (Inaudible...).**

17 **Q. Jerrod what's your birthday?**

18 **A. Ah, January 10th, 1989.**

19 **Q. 10/89 and is J-A-R-R-O-D (over talking).**

20 **U. (Inaudible...).**

21 **Q. And then D-E-A-S right?**

22 **A. Yeah (talking in the background).**

23 **Q. Okay. Um, you have a number where we can call you for later on or**
24 **whatever?**

25 **A. Yeah, 843...**

1 Q. 843...

2 A. 601...

3 Q. 601...

4 A. 9412.

5 Q. 9412, is this your cell phone?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay.

8 DP. (Background conversation... Okay you're taking one (inaudible).

9 Q. And do you have another, like a permanent phone, home phone

10 number or anything?

11 A. That's, that's pretty much it right there.

12 Q. That's pretty much it.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Um, do you swear and affirm that everything you tell us today

15 is the truth, the whole truth nothing but the truth?

16 A. (Inaudible...). Yeah I got, I got to say something real quick man.

17 Q. Alright.

18 A. I, I, I mean I, I never... you know what I'm saying I've never been in

19 this situation...

20 Q. Right.

21 A. ...I, I don't know if, you know what I'm saying, I should have a lawyer

22 or you know what I'm saying or Doctor. White should be here.

23 Q. Doctor White will be coming in, in a little bit um, if you want to sit in

24 with him and have him talk with you and, and talk with us, that's fine.

25 We have no problem with that.

1 A. Alright.

2 Q. Um, we're, we're not here to get anybody in trouble, we're here to try
3 to find out what happen to Robert.

4 A. Yeah, I mean (inaudible)...

5 Q. (Coughing...).

6 A. ...cool, I mean, you know what I'm saying, I just, just wanted, you
7 know what I'm saying, I, I feel more comfortable...

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. ...if you know (inaudible over talking).

10 Q. Well he is going to be at ten o'clock. So you're willing to hang out for
11 a little bit?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay, well then we'll wait till Doctor White gets here and then we can
14 all sit down and talk then.

15 A. Alright.

16 Q. Okay.

17 DP. Ah, what section are you?

18 A. Oh, I'm a drum major.

19 DP. A drum...yeah you're (inaudible over talking).

20 A. (Inaudible over talking...).

21 DP. But (inaudible over talking).

22 A. Saxophone.

23 DP. You know what I'm saying.

24 A. Yeah.

25 End of interview.

1
2
3 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

4 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.
5

6 
7 DETECTIVE Dave Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF MARCUS FABRE**

2 **DETECTIVE ANGELO CHIOTA**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **RECORDED NOVEMBER 28, 2011**

5 **TYPED DECEMBER 5, 2011**

6
7
8 **Okay today is ah, November 28th.. 29th, 2011, it's approximately 1637 hours and**
9 **we're having an interview at um, Marcus, spell your last name for me.**

10 A Fabre, F-A-B-R-E.

11 Q R-E, Fabre. At his hose and ..

12 A That's F-A-B-R-E, and it's (Inaudible)...

13 Q F-A-B-R...

14 A E. Fabre.

15 Q F-A-B-R-E.

16 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 Q That's what I got A.

18 A I'm sorry.

19 Q That's alright. And um, this is your apartment here?

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Okay. And Detective Phelan and um, Detective Chiota here are conducting an
22 interview reference um, Robert Champion's death. Do you think we could shut
23 that off for..
24

25 A Yes. Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 Q ...second. Thank you. It's a dishwasher noise in the background. Great. Great.
2 Okay you understand that we're recording this conversation?
3 A Yes I do.
4 Q Okay and you don't have a problem with that?
5 A No sir.
6 Q Okay. Um, what is your ah, how long have been going to this school?
7 A Ah, this is my second year.
8 Q Second year. Okay. And um, how long you been in the band?
9 A Two years.
10 Q Two years. Okay. And what ah, part do you ...
11 A I play the alto saxophone.
12 Q Sax, okay. And you know Robert Champion?
13 A I knew Robert Champion. I'm not really, ah, I didn't really hang with band
14 members outside of band. That's 'cause...
15 Q Okay.
16 A(inaudible)..
17 Q Okay. Um, you may.. some of this stuff maybe repetitive 'cause I didn't have the
18 conversation with Investigator Clay.
19 A Okay.
20 Q Um, so when you first started in the band was there this situation that um, with..
21 that you had call.. had brought...
22 A Right.
23 Q ...to the attention of law enforcement?

1 A Yes um, the hazing been going as long as I remember. They.. before you go to
2 the school they warn you that you gonna have to go to some initiation that you're
3 not gonna like. And it's.. I went in there with a full mind knowing what was gonna
4 happen, with a full mind that what's gonna happen to me.

5 Q Meaning that you weren't gonna ...

6 A I ..

7 Q ...participate?

8 A I wasn't gonna allow myself to be hazed to a point of physical hazing. Ah, don't..
9 we had a freshman allowed to talk on the patch. That's fine.

10 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 A You have to run from point A to point B that's fine it's initiation. You, you there to
12 learn I understand that. And to me, he didn't (Inaudible)... to me. Um, because I
13 feel like they think they hold some kind of power...

14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 A ...that they don't have. And I (Inaudible)... 'em oh, (Inaudible)... you were here
16 first and you learned it first. Had I been older I'd be your teacher. There's
17 nothing they could do that I couldn't learn to do. So, I didn't feel they were any
18 better then I was. Especially as a human being. And they like talk to you like
19 you're a beneath them and I understand humbling the student. But you know if
20 you come in humble there's no reason to do all that extra stuff.

21 Q Got you. Now when you say they, who.. who are they?

22 A I'm sorry, upper classmen.

23 Q Upper classmen.

1 A That believe that hazing helps you kind of.. I guess is necessary.
2 Q Okay.
3 A To be part of hundred to.. to learn.. It's a little to the concept and standard of
4 March of a Hundred. And I just don't believe that.
5 Q Is this all upper classmen or the upper classmen specifically with the band?
6 A Ah, not all just with the band.
7 Q With the marching band?
8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
9 Q Okay. Are there any particular people that in.. of the band, upper classmen that
10 had addressed you directly?
11 A Um, (Inaudible)... are really um, the ones really in your face a lot. My
12 (Inaudible)... were, were young ladies though they, they didn't participate in any
13 physical hazing to me.
14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
15 A And I didn't.. like I.. and um, of course all the serious hazing, physical hazing
16 goes undercover, which you had to be invited to the specific home. And I was
17 never asked and I wasn't gonna go regardless.
18 Q Okay.
19 A So, witnessing somebody being beat was not often. I did see a freshman then
20 she kicked in his leg for not (Inaudible)... a ninety. And (Inaudible)... I went up
21 to him said, that's not gonna happen ah, not his, not his leg is hurt now we're
22 not gonna hit a ninety.
23 Q What's a ninety?

1 A No. But I was again I was in the back, I mean the front looking towards the back.
2 So, it's like you know 'cause you, you know when they're done 'cause you know
3 they say, you know ...

4 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

5 Q How many people would you say were on the bus when you got back on, looking
6 back there?

7 A It was a cluster it was probably.. 10 or 15. I couldn't really be sure 'cause like I
8 said I didn't have my glasses...

9 Q Is that, is that a normal amount for...

10 A Yeah. I mean it kind of it just it varies. Sometimes.. I know I seen people go
11 through, there's been 4 or 5 people. And then other times when you know
12 people fill then I seen, I seen more.

13 Q Okay.

14 A But as far as exact count I couldn't, I couldn't tell you 'cause I couldn't see. I
15 didn't have my glasses. So, then I, so I knew she was done. And then Keyon
16 was towards the middle or fin... well towards the back finishing. 'Cause
17 probably about 5 seconds after I got on the bus. You know...

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q He started.

20 A No, no, he finished.

21 Q Okay, well I'm.. I'm confused here. If you get on the bus and she's at the back.
22 And he's got to way to start doesn't he?

23 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

1 Q No?

2 A I mean I've seen times where they sent 2 or 3 people at once.

3 Q Really? (laugh)

4 A Yeah so...

5 Q Okay.

6 A I mean...

7

8 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

9 Q So, she doesn't get off the bus before he's starts?

10 A No, no.

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q Oh so she's...

13 A They al, they all get.. we all get off the bus at the same time.

14 Q Okay.

15 A 'Cause you know they want to make sure everybody's okay, bring 'em water

16 everything like that.

17 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

18 Q Okay.

19 A So, when I got on Robert was toward... he was like maybe for some reason they

20 I guess they decide to start him farther to that ah, back, then really right there in

21 the front.

22

23 Q Did you see him actually start?

24 A No.

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Well, how can he, I mean Keyon's there and going through. Keyon doesn't go
3 through till Robert. 'So, you got to be somewhere.

4 A Um, Keyon...

5 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

6 Q You said Keyon was not finished ...

7 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

8 Q Keyon was ...

9 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

10 Q ...but when you got on the bus.

11 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

12 Q Yeah.

13 A Yeah.

14 Q So, Lissett, Lissett just finishes.

15 A Yeah.

16 Q And then when..

17 A 'Cause what, what they do...

18 Q Right. If you are participating you have to tell me that right now.

19 A yes sir.

20 Q Okay.

21 A Yes.

22 Q If you participated in them going by, then tell me.

23 A I didn't sir.

1 Q Okay well it's ..

A It's just..

Q ..kind of hard to, to, to put this picture together that Lissett's at the back of the bus. You come on the bus and now Ro.. ah, Keyon's gonna go through. And you're still on the bus and then now Robert's gonna come through. So, your participating.

(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

Q There's not that much room on the bus for all the... What...

(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

Q What do you, what do you,...

(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

Q Now enough room on the bus for ther people to be walking by you and getting by you. For you to be standing in the same place when all this other stuff is happening. If you know what we're saying?

A Yeah. I mean...

(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

Q I mean you're not..

A Can..

Q I'm not, I'm not accusing you of ...

A ...

Q ...taking a bat and hitting him with it. But it... anyone of them.

A I.. I understand.

Q Okay.

1 A It's just ...

2 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

3 Q Nothing can change what happened.

4 A I understand, just everything like everything like it's kind of... everything's like
5 real cloudy.

6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

7 Q Okay. But the point is this. To answer me truthfully, you participated in when
8 these 3 people went by correct?

9 A I was., yes I was there.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I..

12 Q Okay. But that's not what I'm asking. You participated by either did you, did you
13 punch them open fisted, closed the fist>

14 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

15 Q Slapped.

16 A No sir I did not, I did not touch them.

17 Q Is anybody gonna say that you did? Why, why...

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q Why would somebody.....

20 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

21 Qone of these people say that you, you were there and you were one of the
22 ones that did this? And I don't care if you were or not.

23 A I...

1 Q Really.

2 A I mean...

3 Q It doesn't matter we're just trying to..

4 A I know. . I know I have a few vendettas against somebody and they had you
5 know some problems with me. I know that but as far as actually participating, I
6 did not sir.

7 Q You know everybody...

8 A I was..

9 Q ...everybody involved in this is scared to death. Because... whatever happened
10 to Robert happened whether he had a medical problem or something else.
11 Nobody knows right now. And nobody can change that. And people are scared
12 because of that and, and I don't fault you. I'd be scared too. But these people
13 were scared when they came in and talked to us too. That's not a time where
14 we're gonna.. that's, that's not a time for vendettas. These people are scared to
15 death. They're coming in here telling us like it is. Because that's all they got left.
16 That's what we need you to do. We just need you to be honest so that we can
17 put this all together. And figure out what really happened. But we got some
18 people saying, all these people were involved and none of these people want to
19 say they were. And it's because you're scared and I understand that. And I
20 would be scared too. But you just got to be honest. That's the only way we're
21 gonna get through this. And put this behind us.

22 A I understand that. It's...

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q It's, it's.. it doesn't... I.. I.. you know if I make a mistake I don't like admitting that I
3 made a mistake. Okay, but we certainly don't want it left that you know you
4 came in here to deliberately misled us okay.

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q So, your participation in it okay, um, it's just that. Okay, you have to, you have to
7 ah, you know I mean I.. you and I both know that you were participating in it.
8 Okay, so, telling me that you didn't is, is not, is not the truth.
9

10 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

11 Q It's not like you made a mistake and went out and robbed a bank. You
12 participated in something that people have been participated in, in this school for
13 30, 40 years. And then you got punished for not participating in a week before
14 this or two weeks before this whenever that last game was. That doesn't make
15 you this... Nobody involved in this is, is a monster. Nobody involved in this is the
16 person out there robbing banks. These are people that college kids having fund,
17 getting involved in their college environment. People have made that wrong, but
18 kids are still gonna do it. That doesn't that doesn't make you a bad person. But
19 coming in here and lying to us, that doesn't make you a good person. And that,
20 that's all we're trying to get at. You're not a bad person.
21

22 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

23 Q Do you feel you're a bad person?

24 A (No verbal response.)

25 Q Okay. If you lie to me do you think that's a bad person?

1 A (No verbal response.)
2 Q Okay then stop lying to me. Okay.
3 A (No verbal response.)
4 Q Just tell me the truth. Let's, let's, let's put everything aside just tell me the truth of
5 what happened. Okay.
6 A Sir, as I said, did get off the bus.
7 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
8 A I started walking to the hotel, realized I didn't have my stuff on me.
9 Q Right.
10 A I came back on the bus and they were in the middle of everything. The only thing
11 I was, I was trying, I was waiting for them you know to move past my seat.
12 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
13 A But they didn't you know they were taking their time whatever
14 Q And who was it at this point that is taking.. It's Lissett?
15 A I.. No, by the time I got back on the bus she was, she was in the back.
16 Q Okay. So, then Keyon.
17 A Keyon. I guess Keyon was, I guess Keyon was towards the back towards the
18 middle.
19 Q Okay.
20 A And Robert was just not in the front, not in the middle, just kind of in that like that
21 mid... that mid (Inaudible)... The only thing when I was looking for my glasses
22 and everything. 'Cause.. and if you ask anybody that was there.
23 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
24
25

1 A They'll tell you I was take... I was asking people for their phone, looking for my
2 glasses. 'Cause I got underneath the seats looking for everything or whatever
3 'cause I didn't, I couldn't see exactly which seat was mine. 'Cause you know
4 everything was dark. But so I took somebody.. I took somebody's phone I was
5 on the ground looking for my glasses. I finally found them in the crevice between
6 the seat and the wall. But you know it took, it took me a while to find 'em.

7
8 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

9 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

10 A But I'm not lying to you in saying I didn't, I didn't participate. I did not...

11 Q I.. I can't see you after you just got punished for not participating. And for
12 messing up, but you yourself told me that some band members felt like you
13 weren't participating in the activities. After that just hap... that just happened to
14 you a week before.. a week or two, no more then two. Because the games are
15 no more the two weeks apart. That just happened to you a week or two before.
16 You're not.. I could see if you were off the bus and nobody saw you. Getting
17 away with it. But you're not gonna get back in that bus when this is going on
18 and not take part in that. Knowing what just happened to you a week before.

19 A (No verbal response.)

20 Q It.. it's.. it's not gonna happen.

21
22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q And besides that what we're talking about is that I, I don't want the person that
24 did came in and told me what, what's occurred to not take what they have to say
25 as being true. And then you come in here and then make them a liar. Okay.

1 A (No verbal response.)

2 Q I don't.. 'Cause I don't need that. All I need is for you to accept responsibility for
3 yourself. Okay, so what actions whatever they were okay. It's again we're not
4 trying to unchanged history. We can't. We just need to record it accurately okay.

5 A (No verbal response.)

6 Q And you just, you just told me you're not telling me the truth. So, I need you to
7 tell me the truth. Just.. what are you afraid of right now?

8 A I'm...

9 Q What's the.. what's your biggest fear right now that you won't tell me what you
10 actually did?

11 A (No verbal response.)

12 Q Is it because now it'll be different the what we said? I already told you, forget
13 about that. Let's, let's start from the beginning.

14 A It's just, it's just that with everything, you know media-wise whatever they're
15 saying you know. Anyone that was there that saw it, is gonna be charged.

16 And...

17
18 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

19 Q Don't[t..

20 A And...

21 Q Don't worry about the media. The media has absolutely no idea what they're
22 talking about. They take one little.. The media says that this caused his death.
23 We don't know that this caused his death. The med... you can't listen to what
24 the media says. The media take one little.. you could go out there and say the
25

1 sun is blue and the media would turn that into the earth's gonna end tomorrow.

2 You, you..

3 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

4 Q But the, the point, the point is this. If you're are involved and you don't want, we
5 don't want the record to show that you're involved and you participated. And
6 media said everyone's gonna be charged. That's what the media's saying.
7 Okay. If you say something that changes how it actually occurred and somebody
8 gets charged inappropriately. Would that be fair?

9 A No sir.

10 Q No, okay. If you did something then you take responsibility for what you did.
11 Okay. Don't worry about what everybody else says. You're walking out of here
12 okay. Do you not want to tell me the whole truth... You need to get this off your
13 chest Ryan. I can tell you that right now.

14 A I knew (Inaudible)...

15 Q Okay then, then I want, I want it to be on record that you told me the truth. Good,
16 bad or indifferent. Please let us figure it out after the fact. Don't let me judge you
17 based on you trying to anticipate what our actions gonna be. I understand that's,
18 that's a tough one to rustle with. Because the media's got you this. But when
19 you go to, go to home tonight you're gonna know that you said, whatever's
20 coming down the pike's gonna come. But it's gonna come because I told them
21 what actually I did. And I'll take responsibility. Not what because I talked
22 myself into something that didn't actually occur. And, and mess up everything
23 else. You'll be accountable for what you did. Okay.

1 A (No verbal response.)

2 Q And that's all we're talking about right now. Once I have that then we will make
3 an assessment from that point on. Okay, but it, it's very clear that if you lie to me
4 that will buy you some a, different aspect of what's gonna go on. 'Cause I have
5 to deal with that. And I can prove that you're lying to me.

6 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

7 Q In the end the truth's gonna, the truth's gonna be (Inaudible)... out everybody's
8 involvement what they did. It's, it's how we put it together as far as whether that
9 person was honest, or whether that person lied. Helps us put that story together.

10 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

11 Q What, what does Ryan ah, Dean stand for?

12 A (No verbal response.)

13 Q You, you stand for the right thing I know that. We can't change what's occurred.
14 We all agree that it shouldn't have happened. But it has, but despite all that the
15 good people rise out of it because they did the right thing. Now you need to do
16 the right thing for Robert's namesake. But more importantly for your own. Okay.

17 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

18 Q So, let's, let's get down to ther nitty gritty here okay. Tell me exactly what you
19 did. Um, in.. in this situation.

20 A Like I said, I got off the bus.

21 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22 A I eventually returned to get my stuff. They were in the middle of everything. So, I
23 couldn't, I couldn't go directly to my seat.
24
25

1 Q Correct.

2 A So, what I did I took somebody's phone.

3 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

4 A And I started climbing over seats to get to my seat. So,...

5 Q Why did you take somebody's phone to climb over the seats?

6 A I couldn't see.

7 Q Oh using the phone to see?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Oh I see okay.

10 A The light.

11 Q Got you.

12 A So, I couldn't, I couldn't see. So, I was in, I was on the floor looking for my stuff

13 whatever. 'Cause (Inaudible)...

14 Q Go ahead. You're looking for your stuff.

15 A So, by then I was on, I was looking between 3 and 4 different seats. 'Cause I

16 didn't, couldn't find out exactly where my seat was, but I looked through it all.

17 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

18 A Things overhead, so I was on the ground and then they came by.

19 Q Who came by?

20 A They were like I guess he was making progress.

21

22

23 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

24 Q Who?

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Who?

3 A Um, I be.. this is Robert I believe.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Yeah. This is Robert.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So, I'm on the floor, I'm on the floor and they're pushing through and I'm getting
8 stepped on a little bit. So, I got up and I jumped to the next seat. Like here's a
9 seat, and I was on the floor and they stepped on me. So, I got in the seat and
10 went to the next seat waiting for them you know to pass so I could, I can my stuff.
11 Or at least find it.

12 Q Okay but what did you do when Robert's right in front of you? What are you
13 doing?

14 A The on.. I was.. I yelled I told him you know, come on, push through. You know
15 this is..

16 Q Do you or so is it, so, the perception is it that you're holding him?

17 A Huh, no I was.. 'cause at this point when they finally go0t to me and when I got
18 stepped on. I got behind them.

19 Q Okay, so now with the perception be that you're trying to push him through?

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Okay. Alright.

22 A So, I told, I told you know I'm yelling in his ear, come on. You know.

23 Q Okay.

1 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

2 Q Were you, I mean were you pushing him trying to get him through?

3 A I, I pushed a couple of people just because you know I'm getting bumped into
4 and I can't, I can't see anything. So, I didn't know so, yes I did push a couple
5 people.

6 Q Okay.

7 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

8 Q Okay so, who'd you push?

9 A I.. I honestly don't know I believe it was.. LaSherry.

10 Q Okay.

11 A Like..

12 Q And where's LaSherry when she's, when you pushing her? In regard to...

13 A She...

14 Q ...Robert?

15 A She's behind Robert.

16 Q Okay.

17 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

18 Q (Inaudible)...

19 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

20 Q So, what's he's doing?

21 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

22 Q ...dog pile? I mean are they just kind of piled on push...

1 A I mean yeah they're kind of, they're like all around him just kind of getting him to
2 go through or whatever. 'Cause you know he's you know he's tried and ...

3 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A ...it's just like you know at first you know you start out you make it a couple
6 seats. Then you kind of get tired and you start.. But you know he was still going
7 or whatever. And you know..

8 Q Who else is right there with him?

9 A Um, I saw.. Aaron, what's his name..

10 Q Where is Aaron in regards to um..

11 A Aaron..

12 Q Aaron is ..

13 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

14 Q (Inaudible)...

15 A Yes. And he's on like the right hand side, but he's like, like kind of jumping up
16 and down. I don't know maybe if Robert fell and he was jumping on him or if he
17 was just truing to jump from.. get to the from seat to seat. 'Cause...

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q Did Robert fall?

20 A I.. I think he like he fell in the seat. But then he... someone pulled him back up.

21 Q Who pulled him back up?

22 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

23 Q How far through was he when fell in the seat?

1 A He was, he was in... he was toward.. behind.. I was in back of him and he was a
2 couple of seats, he was like a seat or two in front of me. So, he was...

3 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

4 Q Who Aaron?

5 A No, this is Robert.

6 Q Okay.

7 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

8 Q When you say in back of, towards the back of the bus or towards the front of the
9 bus? You were... you were...

10 A me?

11 Q ..towards the front of the bus?

12 A Yes I was ...

13 Q Okay you were behind him?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q As he's going towards the back?

16 A He's going this way. And I was this way.

17 Q Okay.

18 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

19 Q And you're pushing him?

20 A Yeah I pushed him.

21 Q Then so now you pushing on Sherry, LaSherry?

22 A Yeah I'm push..

23 Q And Robert? Or ...

1 A I can see... I knew I knew it was Sherry 'cause she had that hair stuff so I saw
2 that like 'cause it was directly in front of me.

3 Q Okay.

4 A But...

5 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

6 Q And you saw Aaron?

7 A Yeah I saw, I saw Aaron 'cause he ran from the front and kind of bumped me to
8 get to jump into the seat or whatever.

9 Q To get ...

10 A Yeah to..

11 Q ...the back of the bus?

12 A Yes. So, you know they were, he was doing to...

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 A ...so I was kind of pushing him.

16 Q Who's on the left side of, of Robert um, LaSherry at that point?

17 A Left side.

18 Q Yeah. You said LaSherry's on the right.

19 A No...

20 Q LaSherry's behind him.

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay.

23 A I saw Aaron on the right?

1 Q Okay who's on the left side?

2 A What's his name... Benjamin...

3 Q Oh Benjamin .. um,...

4 A Mack something.

5 Q Mc.. McNamee?

6 A Ma..

7 Q M-C..

8 A Ma..

9 Q McNamee?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Okay.

12 A I saw, I saw him on the left.

13 Q And what's he doing?

14 A He's, he was jumping on Robert. Well, I guess 'cause he.. this is when he had

15 fall.. fell in the seat. And he was kind of like jumping on him. But I can't really.. I

16 don't really know exactly what he was doing. But to me it look...

17 Q Was he kicking him?

18 A It.. he might've been I couldn't really, I.. I just saw him going like this. But I

19 couldn't ...

20 Q So, is he standing on the seat?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. So, he's standing on the seat and well is his hands or his feet.. making

23 contact with Robert?

24

25

1 A I saw, I saw hands.

2 Q Okay.

3 A But...

4 Q And then that's something.. enough to knock Robert over into the seats, on the
5 right? Where Aaron is?

6
(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

7 Q Are you, you saying Robert's down on the seat and Ben..

8 A Right. He's like...

9 Q And they're like jumping on him?

10 A He was like, sitting on him. Yeah. That's, that's kind of...

11
(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

12 Q Who's sitting on him?

13 A Like Robert, he's sitting on... he's sitting in the seat.

14 Q He's in the seat.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Oh okay. So, he's not moving at this point?

17 A No, he's like, he's moving, but like they pushed him in the seat.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And then Ben... and then I saw Benji jumpy on him. I don't know...

20
(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

21 Q What do you mean? How do you...

22 A Ah, he's ah, he's a real small person. So, it's like he was like holding onto the
23 ah, the um, what's it.. you know where you walk through the bus?

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Oh..

3 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

4 Q The rails?

5 A Yeah and he was kind of like just jumping up and down. I don't know if he... it
6 look to ... I think he was kicking him.

7 Q Okay.

8 A But as I said right no I don't have my glasses so..

9 Q You couldn't tell exactly...

10 A (Inaudible)...

11 Q ...what he was doing?

12 A Yeah, everything is like kind of a blur.

13 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 A So, kind of... so, I was you know pushing trying or whatever. And then I heard, I
16 heard like something like it sounded like, like my glasses being stepped on.

17 Q Hm.

18 A And I was... backed up and I was looking and they finally moved from the seat
19 and it was a bag of chips that they hade stepped on. But and then you know I
20 still had the phone in my hand. And I'm looking and that's when I found my
21 glasses. And I found my bag with my room key and once that happened I left.

22 Q Well did you make sure that Robert got to the back of the bus?

1 A I mean I was just.. I didn't want to be involved in this. Just 'cause what happened
2 last time and everything.

3 Q What happened last time?

4 A Well I got a hot seat and I was just like...

5 Q Oh okay.

6 A ...you know that's...

7 Q Based on your experience that it wasn't..

8 A Yeah.

9 Q ...it wasn't a good thing.

10 A Yeah it wasn't..

11 Q Wasn't a good experience.

12 A I was like you know as soon as I found my stuff I left. And I went to, I went to my
13 friend ah, Lee's room and we talked for a couple minutes. We.. we all decided
14 we're going out to eat. So, I went back to my room, I took a shower, changed,
15 met up with Lee and we were downstairs in the lobby. And then and then I see
16 um, Darryl and Henry like kind of running through and I hear 'em say, oh man
17 he's... you know they're taking him to the hospital. And I was, I was kind of just..
18 not in shock, but I was kind of like being critical. I was like, y'all took it overboard.
19 Like why.. I was like, what did you guys do to make someone go to the hospital?
20 When everyone else that has done this have been perfectly fine afterwards. And
21 you know....

22 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

23 Q And that's...

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q And who'd you say that too?

3 A huh?

4 Q Who were you saying that too?

5 A Oh I'm saying that to myself.

6 Q Oh.

7 A Like, 'cause I saw 'em I saw 'em running.

8 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

9 Q Oh you didn't say that to Darryl and Henry?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay.

12 A 'Cause they... I saw 'em running through and they're like, man he's going to the
13 hospital. Like kind of just ...

14 Q See that's what we're trying to find somebody who will actually us they were
15 there with Robert at the end. So, that.. so that we can get somebody to describe
16 to us what he was doing. Because this hasn't happened to anybody else. So,
17 maybe there was something else going on with him. And ...

18 A I mean...

19 Qthat's why we're trying to get somebody to tell us what he looked like and what
20 he was doing at the end.

21 A I... I understand.

22 Q So.. so, that...

23 A But I mean by... by...

1 Q ..we can see...

2 A I got off the bus before he finished. Um, I know that, I've talked to a couple of
3 people that were there when.. at the end.

4 Q Who's that?

5 A Ah, Darryl um, Henry um, just mainly those two. And when I was talking to them
6 they, they said you know he was.. he was done everything, he was up you know
7 and they were just sitting there talking. 'Cause you know after you finish they tell
8 you ah, the history, they show you the crypt, they tell you, you know when it was
9 founded everything like that. And he said that they were just talking and that he
10 .. you know he was actually up walking around. And then they said, he said that
11 you know he spit up and then started complaining that he couldn't breathe. But I
12 wasn't there for all that. But that's what they told me.

13
14 Q So, he was okay until he threw up and then he started ...

15 A Yeah.

16 Q ...complaining of not being able to breathe?

17 A Yes.

18 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

19 Q Okay. So, now is.. is um, going back to when um, Aaron.. Is that Aaron Green?

20 A No that doesn't sound right.

21 Q Aaron Goldson?

22 A Yes.
23
24
25

1 Q Okay Aaron Goldson. So, Aaron Goldson runs by him, jumps over him. Now
2 how.. what is he jumping up on to get.. you saying that, Robert goes into the
3 seat. But um, Aaron is jumping up and down on the seat too.
4 A No, um, Benji's jumping up and down on the seat. Aaron went on the other side.
5 'Cause this.. I was sitting on... if you.. you're like going to the back.
6 Q Right.
7 A I was sitting on the left hand.
8 Q Okay.
9 A Robert fell on the left side of the bus.
10 Q Oh he fell on the left side.
11 A Yes. Benji was jumping on him on the left side. Aaron ...
12 Q Well he'd almost be jumping on his face then, right?
13 A Hm, 'cause he...
14 Q If he sat...
15 A ... was like, he was literally like sitting up like against the window. Like..
16 Q But he's all the way against the.. the, there's two seats right?
17 A Yes.
18 Q So, there's.. he's against the window seat?
19 A Yes. And he...
20 Q Okay.
21 A ...he's like almost like sitting up and I saw Benji jump ah, jumping in the same
22 seat. He's.. but ...
23 Q (Inaudible)... same seat that um, Robert's sitting in?

1 A Yes sire.

2 Q Okay and where is he feet landing on him?

3 A I, I couldn't tell.

4 Q Okay.

5 A It just... I didn't have my glasses on.

6 Q Okay, but where did, what is ah, Aaron do? You said that Aaron was jumping up

7 and down.

8 A Aaron he was, he was going to the back. So, he was in... 'cause there's people

9 in the aisle.

10

11 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

12 A Whatever and he was like jumping from seat to seat to get to the back.

13 Q And what was he gonna do in the back?

14 A I.. I'm guessing continue um. I just know from past experience that he's been

15 very ...

16 Q Aggressive?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Okay. So, what did he do, what did he do before um, he got the, before Robert

19 went down in the seat?

20 A Um, he was just you know hitting him from..

21 Hitting him?

22 A Yeah from what I saw.

23 Q Okay.

24

25

1 A 'Cause I remember I was looking you know I came and I was, I was in the back.
2 I was... when I got in I was behind Robert. And when I, when I passed over
3 when I got, I got.. climbed over the seat to get to my spot. I looked and I saw
4 Aaron beating him.

5 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

6 Q With what?

7 A His hands.

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q And where was he when Aaron was.. where was Robert when this was going
10 on?
11

12 A He was standing up in the aisle.

13 Q He's standing up.. Okay. And how many times do you think he hit him?

14 A I can't say. I..

15 Q Well, roughly.

16 A Probably 7 to 10 times.

17 Q Seven to 10 times. Were they fists?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And where did he hit him?

20 A Hm, he was just hitting him like in the arms and...

21 Q In the arms.

22 A ...stuff like that.

23 Q And so, that would be his left arm?

24 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Did he hit him in the face at all? In the head?

2 A Not.. um, not that, not that I saw.

3 Q Okay how about the side or anything?

4 A I, I couldn't really.. 'Cause it was a cl... it was a like a crowd of people and I ...

5 Q Okay. So, who else is there? 'Cause so far I only see, I've got, I've got ah, I've

6 got like Ro... you got the aisle here.

7 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8 Q And a seat here. I'll tell you what, you draw it for me. Show me where so I

9 understand exactly where it is.

10

11 A Alright, here's the aisle.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Here, these are the seats.

14 Q Okay. Where's the back of the bus?

15 A Back, the back is here.

16 Q Okay got you.

17 A And here are the seats.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And say this is the front.

20 Q Okay.

21 A When I, when I,, when I noticed that it was Robert he was... see this is the

22 middle.

23

24 Q Okay.

25 A Usually you start right here.

1 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2 A When I.. when I saw him he was about right here.

3 Q Okay.

4 A So, and he was, he was already starting to go through.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And I wait.. I waited for a little bit to you know for..

7 Q Where do you start helping him at?

8 A Huh? I start..

9 Q Where.. what...

10 A I.. I started helping him right here.

11 Q About right here?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Okay.

14 A But I waited a little while for him to go so I could go get my glasses.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Thinking you know he's a big person thinking he's gonna just blow through

17 everybody.

18 Q Now how many people are in be.. ah, on these sides here?

19 A I'm gonna say about 3 here, 3 here.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I can't..

22 Q And who's on theses sides?

23 A I can't.. I.. I honestly just don't remember.

24

25

1 Q Okay well draw the people in for me. Just put like little circles and we'll put those
2 as people.
3 A Like ...
4 Q Okay.
5 A ...there's people. Well, they're right here they're not in the seats, they're like
6 right here.
7 Q Okay.
8 A In.. in.. in the aisle.
9 Q Okay.
10 A So, he.. he was taking him a while so I got, I got here and I climbed over these
11 seats to get, to get to my seat.
12 Q Okay so this is the left side of the...
13 A Yes.
14 Q Okay. Left as you look to the back. Okay got you.
15 A So, but...
16 Q Alright.
17 A ...that's right before I took um, I took somebody's phone.
18 Q Alright.
19 A I saw somebody was sitting there texting. I was like, hey can I use your phone to
20 go find my stuff? And they were like yeas, so I grabbed their phone and I
21 climbed... he's right here. He's kind of.. he's still you know going through. But
22 he's not, he's not making progress. He's not moving to the...
23 Q He's not moving.

1 A ... actual back. So...

2 Q Has he got his shirt on or is it off?

3 A It's off.

4 Q It's off.

5 A Yeah. You.. that's...

6 Q That's what...

7 A That's just how it is you, you do it with your shirt off.

8 Q You do it with your shirt off.

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q What do the girls do?

11 A Um, they do it with a sports bra or...

12 Q Sports bra.

13 A ...or (Inaudible)...

14 Q Okay. But they still have to take the shirt off?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q But they leave a bra.. a sports bra on?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Got you. Okay.

19 A Um, so when they're.. he's here I jumped over the seat...

20 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 A ...to find my glasses. Which was (Inaudible)...

22 Q Go ahead.

23 A About right here.

24

25

1 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2 A So, I'm looking under these seats 'cause I couldn't, like I said, I couldn't find

3 exactly where my seat was.

4 Q Got you.

5 A But so...

6 Q But where had you been before.. when the bus came? When you rode over right

7 before when you got off? And you saw Lissett go through, where were you at?

8 A I was, I was in the back 'cause when I got...

9 Q Okay.

10 Aas soon..

11 Q Alright so where were you on the bus when you.. the ride.. said when you pulled

12 in? Where were.. should you have been sitting?

13 A I was sitting here.

14 Q Okay.

15 A But it was, the way it works like everyone.. like you switch seats, just...

16 Q No I mean where would you have been... where was the part that you were

17 trying to get to, to look for your glasses?

18 A Oh, was right here.

19 Q Right there.

20 A In.. in ..

21 Q Okay.

22 A ...the seat I fell asleep in on the way back.

23 Q Got you, okay. Alright, okay.

24

25

1 A So, I got over and..
2 Q Right.
3 AI was on the floor.
4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
5 A And I noticed you know I.. I hear them coming closer, but I'm like okay, whatever
6 know just.. not.. it.. not touch me. And then they I guess he was pushing them
7 back or whatever pushing 'em you know to make it to the back. And I started
8 getting stepped on or whatever. So..
9 Q So, now where are you at when you're getting stepped on?
10 A I'm right here and he's still like right here. And there's people like between us.
11 Q Okay well, so put, put ah, um, hmmm, ah, put a star where Robert 's at.
12 A He's right here.
13 Q Okay and you put like a triangle.
14 A Where I'm at?
15 Q Where you're at.
16 A I'm...
17 Q Okay.
18 A ... here.
19 Q And that's where..
20 A And there's people like here in between.
21 Q Okay well who's these people here?
22 A I.. it was just backs I don't know.
23 Q Okay well where's LaSherry at this point?

1 A She might've been, she might've been one of these people. I know she was
2 around Robert, but I can't ... I wasn't..

3 Q Okay when you were talking about her earlier you were telling me something
4 about where she was at.

5 A Yeah . Well, that's.. that's once I jumped over the seat or whatever. Once..
6 'cause they started pushing me and I stated.. I couldn't get to my seat. So, I
7 jumped over the seat back. And by then I was, I went from here to around here.
8 And I.. and she was right here behind it.

9 Q Okay. So, that's LaSherry.

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Okay.

12 A And ..

13 Q So, then when.. when do you start helping Robert?

14 A I started like as soon as soon.. 'cause like they kind of stayed right there and I
15 couldn't..

16 Q How long did they stay there?

17 A Like a minute.

18 Q Wow.

19 A But a minute you know ..

20 Q Yeah it's a (Inaudible)...

21 A In this type of situation a minute's a long time.

22 Q Exactly. Exactly.

23

24

25

1 A So, I was kind of.. I jut backed off and was kind off and was kind of waiting for
2 him to, just go through. And he was just like, he .. you know he was fighting, but
3 he wasn't.. he wasn't..
4 Q He was making progress?
5 A Yeah so, I .. so I started pushing...
6 Q Oh sure.
7 A ...LaSherry.
8 Q Okay.
9 A 'Cause I was just like you know I got to..
10 Q So, now.. now you're here helping push him there.
11 A Yeah.
12 Q And then, okay.
13 A And then they're start.. they're starting to move when I started pushing you know
14 they're starting to move.
15 Q Okay so now he's making movement okay.
16 A Yeah.
17 Q Okay.
18 A 'Cause I, I was kind of I was pushing her kind of like move get ou6t my way.
19 Q Yeah right, right.
20 A And you know just ah..
21 Q But she's trying to hold 'em back?
22 A Yes I believe.
23 Q (laugh) Okay.
24
25

1 And he just rushed through. And that's when, that's when I was able to um..

2 'Cause I still had the phone in my hand at this entire point. In my left hand and
3 then he kind of broke through everybody and made it probably around, around
4 here.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And then that's when I was on the floor and I finally found my glasses. And I
7 found my bag. And then that's when I left.

8 Q Okay, but when did, when did they.. when does he fall into the seat? And then
9 um...

10
11 A He fell.. he fell into.. he fell into the seat right.. like right here within like that
12 minute time span I would say.

13 Q So, the time... while he's kind of staggering is when he falls over?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So, now which sides does he fall onto?

16 A He falls onto this side the left side.

17 Q Okay. So, that's about, about where your seat was?

18 A Yeah that's why...

19 Q Okay.

20 A ...that's why I decided to ...

21 Q Okay.

22 A 'Cause I didn't want..

23 Q But when.. show me yeah 'cause we're kind of skipping this part we're talking
24 about where they're um, ah... Benji comes and starts jumping on him.
25

1 A Oh. He's.. well he fell.. falls in the.. fall in a far seat. And it's kind of like..
2 Q Far left side?
3 A Yeah he's kind of like you know if you fall asleep against the window how you
4 kind of prop up. That's how he was. And he was still moving, he was still you
5 know.. people still.. got people yelling come on, come on. And he's still moving.
6 And then Benji, Benji um, got.. was right here.
7 Q Okay.
8 A And he as kind of, and he was kind of he was holding onto the rails and kind of
9 just jumping up and down. I don't know if he was ... kicking him which I assumed
10 he was. But as I aid...
11 Q Okay. So, make.. show where Benji is and make him a um, ah, um, a square.
12 Okay that' Benji and now Robert's the...
13 A Yeah.
14 Q ... the star again okay.
15 A And then like that lasted like 15 seconds. And then, and then Robert I'm
16 assuming pushed him off him 'cause then.. I.. in one second he was there and
17 next second he wasn't. And then he got up and then you know people still
18 holding him. And that's just when he kind of busted through everyone.
19 Q Now where is Aaron at, at this point?
20 A By.. by this point Aaron... I saw Aaron had um, he already jumped over these
21 seats and he was here in the back.
22 Q Okay now Aaron.. is Aaron um, hitting him at this point over here?
23 A Yes.

1 Q Where did you see Aaron hitting him at?

2 A I saw Aaron hit him like right here. Like towards where he started.

3 Q Okay draw like a little a, um, a rectangle area of where ..

4 A He was here.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And then...

7 Q And that's gonna be Aaron, right?

8 A (No verbal response)

9 Q Okay put a little A in there for me. Alright.

10 A And then that's, you know that's when he started, that's when I was waiting for

11 them to move it along before I jumped.. decide, before I decided to jump over the

12 seats and get, get my glasses and stuff. And then he made.. and then Robert

13 made it by him and then that's when he kind of ran into this crowd of people.

14 Q Okay now show me where Aaron goes to once he leaves there. Draw a line and

15 show me where he ...

16 A He jumped over these seats and then he goes to the back.

17 Q And then put another square with his initials.. or.. yeah in there. Okay. And then

18 what time do you.. then when do you leave?

19 A I as soon as I found my glasses. 'Cause I heard like I say I heard like a little...

20 Q So, they've moved down to here by then right?

21 A Yes they're in the, in the back.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And...

24

25

1 Q So, this would be like phase 2 kind of right?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q When he gets to phase 2 that's when you leave?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay.

6 A 'Cause I, 'cause I.. 'cause when they were.. when he had fallen in the seat..
7
8 when he falls in the seat. And everybody was kind of crowding around. That's
9 when I kind of backed up and I was, I was waiting for everyone to just move so I
10 can get my stuff. And then um, 'cause we sell, we sell snacks on the bus and
11 everything. And what I thought was my glasses breaking was actually a bag of
12 chips being stepped on.

13 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14 A So, when I.. once, once I heard that I kind of backed up and I started looking like
15 from I backed up onto the next seat and I was kind of looking under seeing if you
16 know someone had stepped on my glasses. Seeing if I could see the glass. So,
17 once he.. once Robert broke through and actually made it. Then I got, I found.. I
18 finally found my seat, found my glasses and my bag and then that's when I left.

19 Q Okay so I'm putting down here this is LaSherry, this is Aaron, this is um, this
20 square here is Ben.. Benji.

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And that's Robert. Okay um, I was just think...

23 A (Inaudible)...

1 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

2 Q Did you see Darryl on the bus?

3 A Yes I did sir.

4 Q Where was he at?

5 A Darryl was.. towards the back sir.

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7 Q Where's Darryl at in here?

8 A Um...

9 Q Show me where Darryl's at.

10 A Darryl's back here.

11 Q Um, draw a spot.. ah, come up.. what's, what figure you want to give him? Make
12 him a stick figure. Okay so that's Darryl.

13 A Yeah.

14 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

15 Q What about Henry?

16 A Henry.

17 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

18 Q Let's see this stuck is..

19 A (Inaudible)...

20 Q Go ahead.

21 A I know he was in the back. I can't remember exactly where.

22 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

23 Q So, you saw Henry in the back of the bus?

1 A Yeah.

2 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

3 Q Who's this he saying is back here?

4 A Um, I know Henry... I saw...

5 Q That's Henry right there?

6 A No, this is Darryl.

7 Q Oh Darryl. I'm sorry. Got the wrong one. Alright Darryl. That's Darryl and now

8 where do you see ...

9

10 A I just, I just know Henry was...

11 Q Henry.

12 Atoward, I know he's toward the back. I...

13 Q Is he in the aisle or is he in a sea?

14 A Um, in the, I believe in the aisle.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I can't remember exactly. But..

17 Q Okay. Now where's ah, Dante all this time?

18 A Dan... Dante, he.. he's kind of back and forth. He's like, he's checking make

19 sure you know everything is okay.

20

21 Q And so he's got to be pretty close to be checking. So, I mean where is he in all

22 this mess?

23 A Um, I remember, I remember...

24 Q Is he, is he got hands on too? I mean is he helping? Is he holding? Is he

25 punching? What's he doing?

1 A Not.. if anything he's just pushing through like ...

2 Q Oh okay not... if anything. What did you see? Again remember you're doing

3 great here. This is, this is exactly what we been looking for. Um, so where is

4 Dante during all this?

5 A I...

6 Q Is he any of these people in here that these circles that you've drawn?

7 A He.. I believe so, but I can't, I can't put my... I know, I know I just remember

8 when I was looking for glasses I just remember hearing his voice, you okay, you

9 sure you want to keep going? And then...

10

11 Q Okay so then he's talking to Henry?

12 A No...

13 Q I mean to Robert?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And then Robert replied, yes. And then,....

17 Q Okay and where was this at that he's asking?

18 A This...

19 Q Was Robert in the seat at this point?

20 A No, this is when.. this is um, after I jumped over the seats and I was looking...

21 before they had.. before.. while they were still here at the front when I jumped

22 over and was looking for my glasses.

23

24 Q Got you.

25 A Down here.

1 Q Okay.

2 A I just remember hearing his voice. And then 'cause he.. I... I remember hearing

3 him. He has a distinct voice he... I remember hearing him say it like, a bunch of

4 times. 'Cause you know that's, that's how it goes. You know you keep.. as you

5 keep progressing they keep asking.

6 Q Right. So, now where was Lissett and um, where is Lissett and um, ah...,

7

8 A If you like I can... I can leave and I can come back tomorrow if ...

9 Q No, no we're, we're almost finished here. They.. they're just telling me that they

10 got some (Inaudible)... Where's Lissett and ah...,

11 A The ah...

12 Q ...Keyon at this time?

13 A They're in the back.

14 Q So, they're back here.

15 A Yeah.

16 Q So, can you just see which (Inaudible)... they're on?

17 A No. I just, I just know that. I saw when I looked back I saw one of the um, little

18 lights. I saw one of those on.

19 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

20 A Assuming that's where they were. 'Cause just check on 'em. But that's where I

21 actually seen 'em. I never made it to the back to actually look at them or

22 anything.

23

24 Q Now did you see um, um, so when you left did you, did.. was ah, where was

25 Robert actually at when you left?

1 A He was, he was back here.

2 Q Okay. Is h e.. had he made the wall yet back of the bus yet?

3 A No.

4 Q I mean is it true that you touch the back of the bus and then it's over?

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q Okay. So, he hadn't got to that point when you left?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. Anything else that you want to... that you need to tell me?

9 A Um.. that's just.. that's it. Like on... like the only thing I did and you can ask

10 anyone. Is I kind of pushed Robert along 'cause as for actually hitting him. I did

11 not.

12

13 Q Okay. So, you.. you.. if.. if you.. if someone is trying to interrplate what you're

14 physical involvement there. What would be the best way to assess what it was?

15 Was it..

16 A I was, I was helping him.

17 Q You were helping him. Okay so you are, you're.. you're actions were to get him

18 to his goal?

19 A Yes. So...

20 Q As like LaSherry, hers was pretty obvious to you that it was to slow him down?

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q Okay.

23

24

25

1 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

2 Q Is somebody comes in here and tells us we say Ryan doing this. It's gonna be
3 pushing him?

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q Okay.

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7 Q Now was it that hard?

8 A No sir.

9 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

10 Q You feel better?

11 A I do um, the only.. only thing is this. Like and I don't, I don't want to come off as I
12 was lying. But as I said this entire situation is, this is one of the scariest things
13 that I've ever dealt with. As I said, I...

14 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

15 Q I appreciate ...

16 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

17 Q That's totally understandable.

18 A I've... I knew him. Um...

19 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

20 Q Right.

21 A He was a... you know not the best friend, but I.. you know talk to him quite often
22 and just.. when this entire situation happened my mind kind of...

1 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

2 Q Yeah.

3 A ...like I.. and I apologize if it's an.. if it's seems like I was lying or anything. I don't
4 mean to lie. Don't mean to come off as a liar. 'Cause I'm not it just this entire
5 situation like trying to remember back to is...

6 Q That's ...

7 A ...it's extremely blurry.

8 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

9 Q We understand it and that's and I don't think, did you think we were being
10 anything but trying to help you get through that.

11 A It...

12 Q We been doing this a long time and I mean...

13 A Yeah I mean I just don't.. as I said, I don't want to come off as a liar. I don't want
14 anyone... I don't want to come off as always trying to hide from or he was
15 beating 'cause that... you can ask anyone you can ask you know my freshman.
16 That's not me.

17 Q Okay.

18 A And..

19 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

20 Q Like, like we told you before we know you're scared. We know everybody's
21 scared this is a scariest thing y'all have ever been through. We don't expect you
22 to come in here and tell us the whole truth right off the bat.

23 A I mean it...

1 Q That's...

2 A I.. I intend to tell you.. I intended to tell you it's just that...

3 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

4 Q Right.

5 A ...everything.. like it's, it's really scary for me.

6 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

7 Q Yeah.

8 A Like...

9 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

10 Q (Inaudible)...

11 Ajust 'cause.. And I was talking to my... I was talking to parents about it you
12 know. Soon as it happened I.. 'cause I was scared to go home. And I talked to
13 them about it and they were just kind of like you know they were asking me but
14 even then, everything was like really fuzzy.

15 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

16 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19 A And then.. you know with them I don't know, but my dad's sick and not working.

20 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 A My mom stressed out trying to put me through school and my sister..

22 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

23 Q Yeah.

1 A And with all that going on they were just like.. and you know they were hearing
2 everyone that was on the bus anyone that knows anything that didn't come
3 forward already is...

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A So, with them thinking of that it's kind of just ...

6 Q Scaring everybody.

7 A Yeah. And it's just God for big something happen to me.

8
9 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

10 Q Exactly.

11 A My family is...

12 Q That's all you have. And, and....

13 A And there's no one to take care of 'em. My little sister so it's kind of...

14 Q No, and I, I can certainly appreciate, so it's understandable that's why you
15 know... Like I said we been doing this a long time and I could see that. That's
16 And all I wanted to do was make sure we gave you the opportunity. And, and
17 you.. and it's up all up to you. Okay. And all I wanted to make sure was that you
18 understood that you know and this continues. So, if even if we want to talk to
19 you again it's... we're not threatening you. Okay and,...

20 A Is it ..

21 Q And I, and I and, and did you felt like you were threatened?

22 A No I mean ...

23 Q Okay.

1 A 'Cause you know just... everything going on it's just like I don't.. I don't want to
2 get caught up in something that I wasn't part of.

3 (CORPORAL MCMULLEN)

4 Q Yeah.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6 Q Okay.

7 A I know this is a serious matter.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Some... like there's gonna be consequences four people got put out of school. I
10 can't, I can't afford to do that. Especially if I know that I didn't do anything to
11 hinder him. If anything I tried to help him.

12 Q Okay.

13 A And that's, that's.. that was my only thing like ...

14 Q Well until you told us that we wouldn't have known it.

15 A Yeah I mean..

16 Q And we got get it straight and I hate to use the expression straight from the
17 horse's mouth. And if you're willing to stand by that then that's what I take as, as
18 being the truth. 'Cause you know I mean as I said, we.. I knew what you were
19 trying to do was bits and pieces and it's never gonna work. The only way it'll
20 work is if you tell me and then I say, okay I can assess what's occurred here
21 because that means um, that's solely the truth. And then when that piece
22 (Inaudible)... back and forth yeah.

23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative) So,

1 Q Okay.

2 A From, from where I am here what is ...

3 Q Well is it... let me ask you this. Is there anything else that you, you want to tell
4 us as far as your, your statement here?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay, let me ask you this though. If, if there comes up something else or you
7 feel that you want to talk to us. Would you, would you one would you feel free to
8 ah, come and talk to us again and can we talk ah, have that opportunity to talk to
9 you again?

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Um, can I..

13 Q And if you want to I'm gonna give you my card and if you want to you pick up the
14 phone and you give me a call anytime that you want. I, I'll give you that
15 opportunity in addition. Um, and ah, but as far as your statement and all I'll go
16 ahead and I'll end the statement and we'll talk about your um, ah, your questions
17 as far as that.

18 A Okay.

19 Q Okay. Alright um, we'll just keep it rolling but that's as far as your statement. A
20 far as what's gonna happen this point on. I don't know. We are gonna continue
21 ah, now that I feel I have your, your full statement okay, I can take that and apply
22 it to what's actually occurred here. It we had like the ah, Corporal to say, we
23 don't have all the facts. Until you gave us this much information and what your
24
25

1 responsibility is and where you were at. I didn't have this information complete.
2 You were trying to get it out there we're here okay let's go forward from there.
3 We're gonna do this for everybody okay. That's why it's so important whether
4 these people that these other people are on there are so important for you to
5 remember. 'Cause I have to go to them and give them the same opportunity. I
6 know people get scared. I know people forget. And say oh that's right so and so
7 was there. So we want to make sure that everybody has the same opportunity.
8 Okay. If anything occurs we're gonna tell you what's gonna happen okay. I don't
9 know what the next step is. We are gonna finish this investigation there's a
10 number of us involved in it. And then once a determination is to how this was
11 going to you know finalize. You will be included in that and you will be notified as
12 to how that will ... You are now the witness okay. How that changes I don't have
13 that you know as to what if anybody's gonna be charged and or who's gonna be
14 charged. When that point comes we're not ah, I will treat you with due respect.
15 Ah, and let you know in advance as to what is the next step's gonna be. I just
16 don't know what that is 'cause I'm not finished.

17
18 A Okay I didn't..

19 Q Okay.

20 A And you haven't said you know witness I just want to make sure it's... I don't.. as
21 I said, you know 'cause I wanted to come to you guys and tell you um, I did the
22 same thing last time.

23
24 Q Right.

1 A (Inaudible)... talking. I just want to make sure that I just want to make sure that
2 no one puts me like when people are.. when ... 'cause somebody's gonna you
3 know.. I don't want them to try to drag anyone else into it. Whatever 'cause I
4 know I've heard from certain things that you know all people keep your mouth
5 shut don't say this, don't say that or whatever and I don't want it to be, oh well I
6 heard that Ryan went there on his own and told what he knew. And then don't
7 want anything to come back against me like that so.

8
9 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

10 Q Well, when we talk to Henry, when we talk to Aaron, when we talk to these
11 people we're not gonna say you know Ryan came in here and told us you did
12 this. That's not the way work. So, don't worry about that.

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Right. We give 'em the same opportunity you get. So, if you swear by this
15 statement that this is being the truth. Then I take that statement then I go talk to
16 everybody else. Okay and then we put the pieces together. We're not gonna
17 change it. I can remember some people don't remember everything. But for the
18 most part they know exactly what ... just like here. You've done some explicit
19 details. Which are excellent that will help us for Robert's sake do determine what
20 exactly happened. If those people choose to do the exact same thing that
21 everybody will have a better picture that's exactly what occurrence and we can
22 make a judgment um, as to what how that applies to what the next step is going
23 to be. It's not an easy process by any means. Those that say oh I'm not gonna
24 say anything or I'm not.. well guess what? Then I don't have anything in that
25

1 section for them . All I have is all this other stuff and that's not up for me totally to
2 decide is how that is. But if I have everybody saying what their part is one guy
3 saying, I had no part into it and while they're in the middle of it. They're right
4 here in the middle then everybody gets credit for telling me theirs and the person
5 that has nothing, then I make that, we let that. that.. that you know other's the
6 information that goes forward for people to make ah judgment on that,

7
8 A Okay.

9 Q Okay. I think that's the fairest way to do it.

10 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

11 Q Have him sign that.

12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

13 Q Yeah. You just go ahead and put your ah, sign your name then print it down
14 here. This is your drawing. We're just gonna hold that as, as a reference.

15 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

16 Q And we're not gonna show that to these other people either.

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q No.

19 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

20 Q So,

21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

22 Q We don't need to. And then just put today's date please.

23 A (signing) And today's...

24 Q Today's the 6th.

1 A ...6th?

2 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

3 A Okay.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And ...

6 Q Go ahead you have a question?

7 A Um, yeah just.. instead of you know just to make sure that everything goes well.
8 Like would you recommend that I talk to a lawyer or anything? Or...
9

10 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

11 Q We.. we can't give you that kind of advise. Um, talk to your parents and ...

12 A I'm... I'm just.. I mean..

13 Q (Inaudible)...

14 A I just ...

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Yeah we can't give you advise on as to your.. you came in here on your own free
17 will. You were free to leave at anytime. The reason.. and we appreciate you
18 wanting to give us a statement. So, we're treating that as a witness. Until that
19 changes I don't have any.. reason to, to do anything more then to treat that as,
20 as the facts that you [presented to us. Um, you.. did we already have him swear
21 to this?
22

23 **(CORPORAL MCMULLEN)**

24 Q (No verbal response.)

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Um, raise your right hand. Did you swear this statement that you just given is the
3 truth and nothing but the truth?

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q And if necessary would you swear to exact.. ah, restate the exact same
6 information if asked to do so?

7 A Yes sir.

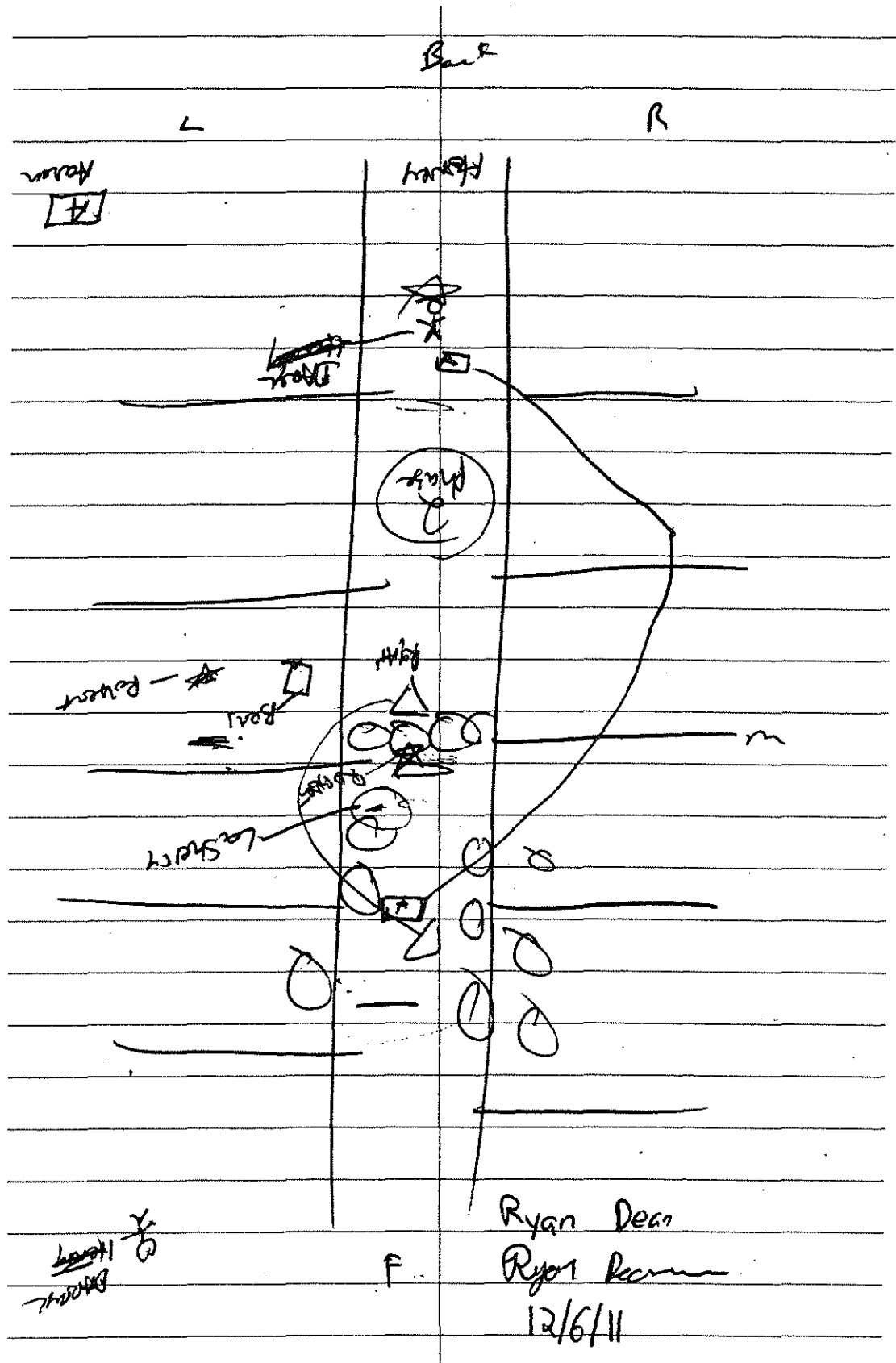
8 Q Okay. Ah, we'll go ahead and end it, it's about 5... 3:41.
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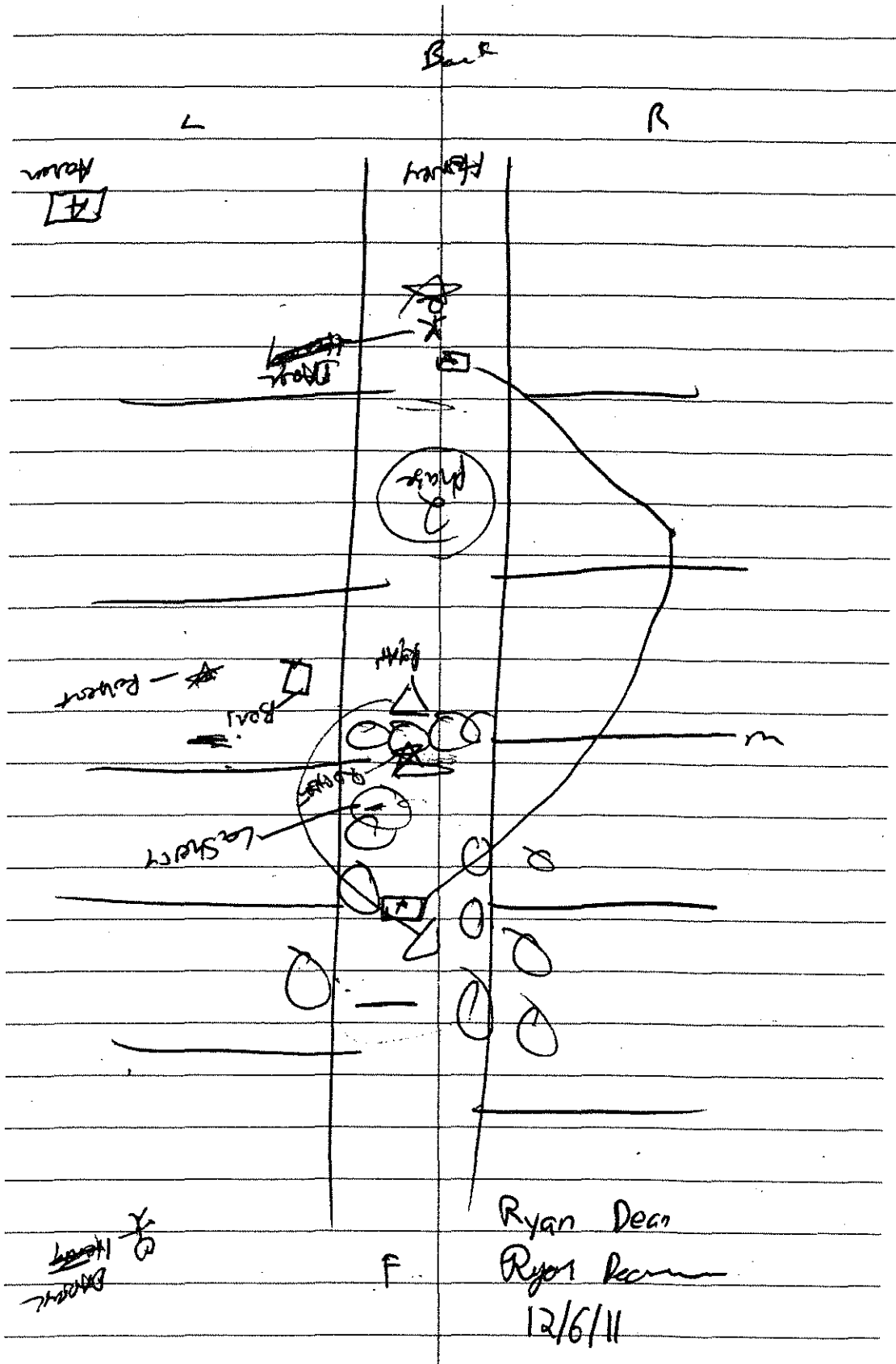
1
2 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

3 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012

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6 _____
7 Detective David Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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Redacted per FS 1002.221 &
1002.225 (student records)





1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JERROD DEASE**
2 **CONDUCTED BY VANCE VOYLES**
3 **CASE 11-101834**
4

5 **This is Detective Voyles (inaudible) with Detective Phelan and**
6 **investigator Cotton speaking to Jerrod Dease in reference to case**
7 **number 2011-101834. Ah, it is alright, November ah, 22nd, at 9:36**
8 **hours (phone beeping...). And we're located at the FMU Law**
9 **Enforcement Department.**
10

11 **Q. Detective Voyles**

12 **DP. Detective Phelan**

13 **A. Jerrod Dease**
14

15 **Q. Um, just to get some information in the beginning (over talking).**

16 **A. (Inaudible...).**

17 **Q. Jerrod what's your birthday?**

18 **A. Ah, January 10th, 1989.**

19 **Q. 10/89 and is J-A-R-R-O-D (over talking).**

20 **U. (Inaudible...).**

21 **Q. And then D-E-A-S right?**

22 **A. Yeah (talking in the background).**

23 **Q. Okay. Um, you have a number where we can call you for later on or**
24 **whatever?**

25 **A. Yeah, 843...**

1 Q. 843...

2 A. 601...

3 Q. 601...

4 A. 9412.

5 Q. 9412, is this your cell phone?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay.

8 DP. (Background conversation... Okay you're taking one (inaudible).

9 Q. And do you have another, like a permanent phone, home phone

10 number or anything?

11 A. That's, that's pretty much it right there.

12 Q. That's pretty much it.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Um, do you swear and affirm that everything you tell us today

15 is the truth, the whole truth nothing but the truth?

16 A. (Inaudible...). Yeah I got, I got to say something real quick man.

17 Q. Alright.

18 A. I, I, I mean I, I never... you know what I'm saying I've never been in

19 this situation...

20 Q. Right.

21 A. ...I, I don't know if, you know what I'm saying, I should have a lawyer

22 or you know what I'm saying or Doctor. White should be here.

23 Q. Doctor White will be coming in, in a little bit um, if you want to sit in

24 with him and have him talk with you and, and talk with us, that's fine.

25 We have no problem with that.

1 A. Alright.

2 Q. Um, we're, we're not here to get anybody in trouble, we're here to try
3 to find out what happen to Robert.

4 A. Yeah, I mean (inaudible)...

5 Q. (Coughing...).

6 A. ...cool, I mean, you know what I'm saying, I just, just wanted, you
7 know what I'm saying, I, I feel more comfortable...

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. ...if you know (inaudible over talking).

10 Q. Well he is going to be at ten o'clock. So you're willing to hang out for
11 a little bit?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay, well then we'll wait till Doctor White gets here and then we can
14 all sit down and talk then.

15 A. Alright.

16 Q. Okay.

17 DP. Ah, what section are you?

18 A. Oh, I'm a drum major.

19 DP. A drum...yeah you're (inaudible over talking).

20 A. (Inaudible over talking...).

21 DP. But (inaudible over talking).

22 A. Saxophone.

23 DP. You know what I'm saying.

24 A. Yeah.

25 End of interview.

1
2
3 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

4 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.
5

6 
7 DETECTIVE Dave Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF MARCUS FABRE**

2 **DETECTIVE ANGELO CHIOTA**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **RECORDED NOVEMBER 28, 2011**

5 **TYPED DECEMBER 5, 2011**

6
7
8 **Okay today is ah, November 28th.. 29th, 2011, it's approximately 1637 hours and**
9 **we're having an interview at um, Marcus, spell your last name for me.**

10 A Fabre, F-A-B-R-E.

11 Q R-E, Fabre. At his hose and ..

12 A That's F-A-B-R-E, and it's (Inaudible)...

13 Q F-A-B-R...

14 A E. Fabre.

15 Q F-A-B-R-E.

16 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 Q That's what I got A.

18 A I'm sorry.

19 Q That's alright. And um, this is your apartment here?

20 A Yes sir.

21
22 Q Okay. And Detective Phelan and um, Detective Chiota here are conducting an
23 interview reference um, Robert Champion's death. Do you think we could shut
24 that off for..

25 A Yes. Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 Q ...second. Thank you. It's a dishwasher noise in the background. Great. Great.

2 Okay you understand that we're recording this conversation?

3 A Yes I do.

4 Q Okay and you don't have a problem with that?

5 A No sir.

6 Q Okay. Um, what is your ah, how long have been going to this school?

7 A Ah, this is my second year.

8 Q Second year. Okay. And um, how long you been in the band?

9 A Two years.

10 Q Two years. Okay. And what ah, part do you ...

11 A I play the alto saxophone.

12 Q Sax, okay. And you know Robert Champion?

13 A I knew Robert Champion. I'm not really, ah, I didn't really hang with band

14 members outside of band. That's 'cause...

15 Q Okay.

16 A(inaudible)..

17 Q Okay. Um, you may.. some of this stuff maybe repetitive 'cause I didn't have the

18 conversation with Investigator Clay.

19 A Okay.

20 Q Um, so when you first started in the band was there this situation that um, with..

21 that you had call.. had brought...

22 A Right.

23 Q ...to the attention of law enforcement?

1 A Yes um, the hazing been going as long as I remember. They.. before you go to
2 the school they warn you that you gonna have to go to some initiation that you're
3 not gonna like. And it's.. I went in there with a full mind knowing what was gonna
4 happen, with a full mind that what's gonna happen to me.

5 Q Meaning that you weren't gonna ...

6 A I ..

7 Q ...participate?

8 A I wasn't gonna allow myself to be hazed to a point of physical hazing. Ah, don't..
9 we had a freshman allowed to talk on the patch. That's fine.

10 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 A You have to run from point A to point B that's fine it's initiation. You, you there to
12 learn I understand that. And to me, he didn't (Inaudible)... to me. Um, because I
13 feel like they think they hold some kind of power...

14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 A ...that they don't have. And I (Inaudible)... 'em oh, (Inaudible)... you were here
16 first and you learned it first. Had I been older I'd be your teacher. There's
17 nothing they could do that I couldn't learn to do. So, I didn't feel they were any
18 better then I was. Especially as a human being. And they like talk to you like
19 you're a beneath them and I understand humbling the student. But you know if
20 you come in humble there's no reason to do all that extra stuff.

21 Q Got you. Now when you say they, who.. who are they?

22 A I'm sorry, upper classmen.

23 Q Upper classmen.

1 A That believe that hazing helps you kind of.. I guess is necessary.
2 Q Okay.
3 A To be part of hundred to.. to learn.. It's a little to the concept and standard of
4 March of a Hundred. And I just don't believe that.
5 Q Is this all upper classmen or the upper classmen specifically with the band?
6 A Ah, not all just with the band.
7 Q With the marching band?
8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
9 Q Okay. Are there any particular people that in.. of the band, upper classmen that
10 had addressed you directly?
11 A Um, (Inaudible)... are really um, the ones really in your face a lot. My
12 (Inaudible)... were, were young ladies though they, they didn't participate in any
13 physical hazing to me.
14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
15 A And I didn't.. like I.. and um, of course all the serious hazing, physical hazing
16 goes undercover, which you had to be invited to the specific home. And I was
17 never asked and I wasn't gonna go regardless.
18 Q Okay.
19 A So, witnessing somebody being beat was not often. I did see a freshman then
20 she kicked in his leg for not (Inaudible)... a ninety. And (Inaudible)... I went up
21 to him said, that's not gonna happen ah, not his, not his leg is hurt now we're
22 not gonna hit a ninety.
23 Q What's a ninety?

1 A A hit a ninety grand goal.

2 Q Or ninety when you're marching?

3 A And that's when they kicked him in his leg. I went that's not gonna help him at all.

4 Now.. now we not gonna hit a ninety. 'Cause now he's limping.

5 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

6 A I witnessed that. And um...

7 Q Was it at, on the campus?

8 A It was on during practice, during rehearsal.

9 Q Okay. And who was it that kicked him?

10 A Ah um, I know where.. his names ah, I don't know his last name, but his first

11 name is James.

12 Q James.

13 A He's a tenor sack player. But freshmen don't, they don't.. they can't really weak

14 minded. And they don't feel.. they feel like if they want to be a part of it they have

15 to do it.

16 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 A So, it's like they thought it was funny like, he wasn't like crying or nothing he just

18 you know, that guy got kicked in his leg. We think ah, nobody wants to be

19 looked at as a punk or a wimp.

20 Q Right.

21 A So, he wasn't gonna be like (sniff).. you know.

22 Q Right.

23 A So, he didn't report it.

24

25

1 Q You tough it out.

2 A Right. Everybody laughed about it and like it was a joke but he actually just
3 kicked that guy. If it was me it'd be something different.

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A But, I talk.. I.. the freshman now she had walked up to me before and asked
6 me... everybody knows my story. They told upper classmen told the freshmen
7 not to listen to me. Not to respect me because I didn't go through the initiation.
8 And um, they came in there thinking that.. they asked me like, was it worth it?
9 'Cause I'm really not the one people like to quote unquote respect. Um, as far as
10 a hundred member. So, I'm like, I said, you got to be strong, heart. You got to
11 know who you are and God and you have to have self esteem to do what I did.
12 You can't want anybody to like you and do it.

13 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14 A So, I said if you, if that's not you then ah, you gonna end up quitting. Me, I
15 received a full scholarship so I wasn't gonna quit.

16 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative) Right, no why give up that, that's individual to you. You
17 earned that.

18 A See, I said it's all about how you feel, if you gonna do what I did. So, think. They
19 rather them not go through all that hard stuff like just be liked and be accepted.

20 Q So, were you ever um, at games when this hazing occurred on the buses?

21 A Oh well the "Bus C" in question I never rode it. But upper classmen try to put me
22 on there for hazing purposes I just didn't ride it. And I told Dr. Chipman that if I
23 ride that bus there's gonna be a problem. So, he said (Inaudible)... 'Cause um,
24
25

1 one of the guys I know that ride it had ah, a altercation with my mother. He
2 actually used profanity at my mom and..

3 Q Hm.

4 Ait was about to get serious. And Dr. White he said he was gonna handle it, but
5 he kind of brushed it off 'cause it was homecoming and my mom just let it go.

6 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7 A So, I didn't let it go. (laugh)

8 Q (laugh) Well, who was it that cussed at your mom?

9 A Um, I don't know his last name, is Henry.

10 Q Henry.

11 A He's a percussionist a rider on "Bus C", I know that.

12 Q That's his last name of his first name?

13 A Sir name is Henry.

14 Q Henry, was it Henry Nesbitt?

15 A I don't know his last name kind of a heavy set fella.

16 Q No, I don't if you would know him by name. Is a section leader?

17 A No.. ah, he's a fifth year in the band. He plays tenor drum.

18 Q Tenor drum.

19 A I think he's a section of tenor drum.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I re.. I don't mind giving you his name 'cause we get.. I got in a altercation with
22 him my first year. Where he would threaten.. get in my face if um...

23 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 A ...somebody said something else to me. I was like, and I told him to do it.

2 (laugh) He didn't do it of course.

3 Q Right. Right.

4 A As a freshman it took me a minute to realize that these guys are all talk. 'Cause
5 they, they act like their hard and about the gang life but they're not. They want,
6 they want init... I told this not the military, not a gang. If you go to Atlanta or
7 Chicago or LA they'll show you how initiation is. And see how hard you really are
8 and so I told 'em that. I'm from Atlanta and I know how it is and this is not a
9 gang at all. Try to mix it and you can't do that. It's a marching band.

11 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

12 Q Let's get to.. Did you travel to ah, Orlando?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And how did you get there?

15 A I rode the bus, bus D.

16 Q Bus D. And are you normally when you travel on bus D?

17 A Yes I travel on.. well..

18 Q (Inaudible)... get picked up on that. (Inaudible)...

19 A Like I say the upper classmen put me on.. my name on "Bus C". I just didn't ride
20 it.

21 Q On this trip?

22 A Oh, yeah they did it this year and last year, but this trip I rode ah, bus D.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Doctor Chipman's bus.

1 Q Okay.

2 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

3 Q Chipman is "D"?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q And the, the one before that you also switched?

6 A Yes I rode bus F last year.

7 Q Okay.

8 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

9
10 Q Alright when you got to Orlando did you participate in the field exercise,
11 exercise? Did you do the ah...

12 A Ah...

13 Q (Inaudible)...

14 A No, I didn't have a spot that game. I was on the sidelines.

15 Q And did you ride back after the game on the buses?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. And if I told you it was approximately 8:30 would that feel.. do you think
18 that would be about the approximate time y'all got back?

19 A I would say yeah pretty.. yeah.

20 Q And once you got back to the parking lot what happened? Did you go straight to
21 the room or...

22
23 A They asked all member to go the band room for ah, speak to the sheriff and had
24 a team of counselors there to talk to anybody that was grieving.

25 Q Okay. This is, when y'all returned from the...

1 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2 Q No when y'all returned from ah, the game to the hotel.

3 A Oh the hotel.

4 Q That night.

5 A Oh yeah, I'm sorry I (Inaudible)... to me room. But I'm sorry.

6 Q Went straight to your room?

7 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8 Q Okay. At what point did you find out what ha happened to ...

9 A Ah, I was with a group of friends and associates and I got a phone call from a
10 friend of mine and she said, what's happening at the hotel? And I was saying,
11 what do you mean? I got.. heard Robert died. So, I.. did y'all know anything
12 about Robert being, getting killed? My (Inaudible)... like, whoa, whoa be quiet,
13 be quiet. Just be quiet told everybody um, to go back to their individual... at that
14 point we was all in ah, in somebody else's room having a little social. But she
15 told everybody go back to their rooms and don't worry about it. But of course
16 everybody tried to figure out what was going on so me and a friend of mine
17 Craig, he's.. we went outside we was out talking. And we got confirmed that
18 he... something happened and we got the details.
19

20 Q And ah, you say you got details. Ah, who told you and what did they tell you?

21 A Um, a friend of mine her name is Myneisha flag, a fresh.. flag freshman. She
22 asked me what happened and she told me I heard he got ah, beat. And I was
23 like, beat? And then that's all she knew and I found out more he was crossing
24 "Bus C" and it got out of hand.
25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q And her name Mar.. Marneisha?

3 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative) M-A-R-I-U-C-I-A.

4 Q I-U-C-I-A.

5 A I think that's kind of ...

6 Q And her last name is Flag?

7 A No, no she's a flag...

8 Q A flag...

9 Afreshman.

10 Q (Inaudible)...

11 A I don't know her last name.

12 Q Okay.

13 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

14 Q You got that M-A-U...

15 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

16 Q M-A-R-I-U-S.. U-C-I-A. M-A-R-I-U...

17 A I can get my cell phone... .

18 QC-I-A.

19 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

20 Q You got a phone number for her?

21 A To be honest she didn't know anything more then...

22 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

23 Q Right.

1 A(Inaudible).. the band. I wanted to keep her out of this.
2 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
3 Q Right.
4 A As a freshman. But um, oh what's her... I do know her last, her last name's
5 Evans.
6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
7 Q Evans.
8 A Yes M-A...
9 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
10 Q Okay we can (Inaudible)...
11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
12 Q M-A what?
13 A M-A-U-R-N-I-C-I-A.
14 Q M-A-U-R-I-C-I-N-A.
15 A Hm, M-A-U-R-N-I-C-I-A.
16 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
17 Q C-I.. (Inaudible)... Okay.
18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
19 Q Okay. And what was the phone number?
20 A It's 850...
21 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
22 A ...273-0790.
23 Q Okay.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Okay, so then you found out that he had went through "Bus C" and got ah, and
3 beat up there. Ah, prior to this incident with Robert on, on "Bus C", had you
4 heard of these activities going on, on that bus?

5 A Yeah I, I knew bus he was yes.

6 Q Okay. You already knew and you had been invited to be on "Bus C"?

7 A But not for the same reason. For me it was just strictly to.. fight me.

8 Q Okay.

9 A 'Cause...

10 Q And ah, who normally rides on "Bus C"?

11 A Percussion. It's part of their crossing.

12 Q Okay. And you just mentioned that it's part of crossing. What they're doing after
13 hours on "Bus C" and do you know what they call that? After hours activities that
14 go on, on "Bus C".

15 A Oh it's crossing the section um, initiation it's a bog part of their section.

16 Q Have you spoken to anyone else who has gone through the ah, initiation crossing
17 on "Bus C"?

18 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

19 Q You yourself have not gone through any type of initiation?

20 A No sir.

21 Q Physical? When you say upper classmen you are referring to the ah, seniors,
22 juniors?

23 A And sophomore.

1 Q And sophomores. Okay. And ah, what about ah, drum majors?

2 A Drum majors I don't see them do anything to the students.

3 Q Okay. Do you have... I'll wait, I'll wait on that one. You got anything?

4 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

5 Q Um, so after you got there and you went up to your room. Did you ever go back
6 downstairs?

7 A Yeah, I went back, I went back downstairs.

8 Q So, would you have been milling around downstairs at what time?

9 A Huh...

10 Q Prior to hearing about Ma... ah, Robert?

11 A Before I heard about it? Ah...

12 Q Yes.

13 A ...ah, no before I heard about it no we.. I went to the social. We got back to the
14 hotel I was in my room.

15 Q Where was the social held at?

16 A It was in another upper classman's room.

17 Q What room is that?

18 A Brandon the, ah, senior upper classman.

19 Q Do you remember what floor it was on?

20 A Four.

21 Q Okay. And who was suppose to, who was at the social?

22 A It was just all upper classmen celebrating the freshmen's crossing to the
23 hundred.
24
25

1 Q Okay.

2 A Just saxophones.

3 Q Just sax's, okay.

4 A That's where I got the phone call from my friend.

5 Q And so you.. you were there from 8:30 to approximately what time was it?

6 A Ah..

7 Q When you got the call?

8 A It had to be after Robert. Because she called me asking about it so, ah...

9 Q I mean you remember what time it was when you got the call?

10 A Almost noon.. almost 12 I mean.

11 Q Okay.,

12 A Almost 12.

13 Q So, you were there in that room the whole time?

14 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 Q You never left it?

16 A Ah, once I got to my room I waited 'cause then we went...

17 Q No, I mean at the social.

18 A Yeah we stayed there the whole time. And then or then I left after I heard about

19 it. They told everybody go back to their rooms.

20 Q Right.

21 A But we went downstairs and was looking around and we saw a few people

22 downstairs. And we saw Dr. White and then we watched Dr. White call the staff

23

24

25

1 and he told the staff and then he told the upper classmen to take their... ah, their
2 sections and meet on level two to tell us.

3 Q Okay.

4 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

5 Q Your mom, she has since texts to Dr. White?

6 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7 Q In reference to the activities that go on within the band?

8 A Yes sir.

9 Q And what's her name?

10 A Felicia Fabre. F-E-L-I-C-I-A.

11 Q And these tests are they ah, advising him of things she believes are illegal
12 activities going on or unauthorized type of..

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q ...hazing going on?

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q And she.. when did these, when did she start sending these texts?

17 A When she asked me my freshman how is it going? I was like, they don't.. like
18 they cuss at us. That wasn't.. like I.. they, they talk to us down, they talk.. the
19 belittle us. They, they hit freshmen. I didn't say me 'cause they didn't put their
20 hands on me. Ah, they destroyed my alto saxophone trying to get me to quit.
21 They took, they stole it and took it apart. And then put it back in the band room
22 where I found it. Scratched up and taken, taken apart. Dr. White so, report ed
23 it. But I don't know who did it. So...

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Hmmm.

3 Athat pretty much ended it. Um, then I told her how I had defend the females in
4 my station a lot because I didn't talk to them.

5 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

6 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7 A And it's very.. very demeaning to them to the women. Call them bitches and ho's
8 and you ain't shit this and I was, a girl was crying nobody at least this, this band
9 is not that serious. Understand I, I (Inaudible)... middle school I know what kind
10 of (Inaudible)... been. I'm not trying to break it down. I'm not trying to dismantle
11 it.
12

13 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

14 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 A I just think it should be.. and I believe fresh.. your first year is not suppose to be
16 your funniest year, but be a type of learning. But you're not suppose to hate
17 coming.

18 A That makes sense.

19 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

20 Q And ah, over the two years you been in the band, how many separate occasions
21 you think your mom has sent tests in reference to um, activities occurring with
22 the bank?
23

24 A she doesn't tell me every time. But we.. she tells me at least two or three if not
25 more. And we actually had a, a me and my mom and my father had a meeting

1 with the whole band staff about hazing. And then Dr. White told my mom that all
2 of you just go to ah, it's a hazing workshop. And she was like, it's not working
3 'cause they're still doing it. And he told her it was getting better then what it used
4 to be. But obviously it's not. She warned them verbatim in her words that if they
5 didn't stop something like this was gonna happen. And after it happened she...

6 Q How long ago was this meeting?

7 A I say September.

8 Q And that was with Dr. ah, White?

9 A DR. White, Dr. Chipman, Mr. Holloway the entire band staff.

10
11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q That's September this year right?

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q And what was their reaction to during the meeting?

15 A It was, it kind of seem like mom's was.. it was over reacting the whole time. Like
16 what's going on really isn't happening. Ah, if, if it was they think students would
17 tell if it was that serious. But I told them they're not fear of being (Inaudible)...
18 ostracized from the band. And not being accepted where somewhere we got to
19 go everyday. Like 3:45 to 5:30 you don't want to be hated. So, of course you
20 gonna do it. So, and he.. they just, they just told her there's not, it's worse.. and
21 they're working on it and it's not as bad as it used to be. And everybody has to
22 (Inaudible)...

23
24 Q So, they, so, their response was that if they thought something was going a
25 student would've reported it?

1 A Right.

2 Q Did they not think you were a student reporting it?

3 A Yeah but I didn't.. I wasn't reporting my hazing per say. But I was ment... I was

4 mentally and verbally hazed not... if they touch me I stopped it right there like. If

5 they hit me one time I hit 'em back and that was it. Um, so I was reporting

6 physical hazing. Anything mental I think they take as ...

7 Q Okay. I see. And did you give them specific names of who were...

8 A Yes.

9 Q ...do they..

10 A (Inaudible)... as women they didn't touch me or but they were very rude. And it's

11 like to the point where it was like, not acting like a young lady. (Inaudible)... I was

12 (Inaudible)... your high school you don't have to do this to be a leader.

13 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14 A And um, but after, after um, they saw my mom's article she called with a real

15 sweet voice. Am I going to jail? I never touched you.

16 Q When was this?

17 A Right .. same night on the way home um, from Thanksgiving break we left on the

18 ah, we left on a Wednesday.

19 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

20 A And ah, she called me um, when I was on the way home asked if I was...

21 Q Who's this again?

22 A My (Inaudible)...

23 Q (Inaudible)...

24

25

1 A I have no idea how to spell it.

2 Q (laugh)

3 A (laugh)

4 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

5 Q A-B-D-U-L.

6 A It's like T-W-E...

7 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

8 Q T-W-E...

9 A (Inaudible)... .. (Inaudible)...

10 Q Okay and it's Abdul?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And she had been rude to you in the past and verbally abusive?

13 A Yeah but I never reported that, that's .. I don't have soft skin. She can say what
14 she want to say. So.

15 Q But she, she.. it bothered her? 'Cause she self initiated the call to you?

16 A Right. Yeah she just assumed that I.. I think she knew she, she was in wrong
17 and think I had.. I was gonna tell.

18 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19 A My mama didn't do the article about me. It was about everybody that...

20 Q What article is this?

21 A It was on CNN, she talked to CNN about hazing.

22 Q Oh when was this?

23 A I don't know when she talked to 'em. She said CNN gave her a call.

1 Q Okay.

2 A And she did a verb... ah, over the phone interview.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And they, and the students saw my name so I'm getting death threats and
5 everybody hates me and... We reported that already the threats I got on Face
6 Book and Twitter.

7
8 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

9 Q Okay. And you reported that to TPD?

10 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 Q And to the campus police?

12 A Yes sir.

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Had you ever been threatened when you didn't want to do it on the bus? And
15 what happened if you didn't you know didn't ride "Bus C" or ...

16 A Oh ..

17 Q ...take their invite?

18 A You're a punk and you better not get on this bus. Get in the hot seat that's what
19 it's called, you get in the hot seat where they hit you and you got to from the front
20 to the back.

21 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22 A Crossing.

23 Q So, if you never were there how did you know about the hot seat?

24 A Oh everybody knows about the bus seat. It's band knowledge.
25

1 Q Okay.

2 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

3 Q If you were asked who was running things on "Bus C", "Bus C" after hours
4 activity would you know? Who was setting this up or these type things u[? Who
5 was asking the people come through?

6 A Well, people have already crossed the upper classmen procession or otherwise.
7 Ah, if students want to cross their section (Inaudible)... but it was through
8 procession is when across section it's "Bus C". And what I heard was the bus
9 driver cross "Bus C" , years prior.

10 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 A And she took the bus to a corner and away from other buses and opened it up for
12 the students to do the crossing. That's what I heard.

13 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

14 Q You know where this was supposed to have occurred at?

15 A On the um, at the hotel. She just took the bus somewhere else.

16 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

17 Q He's talking about her going.

18 A Oh when she called... I have no idea I just...

19 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

20 Q No, no when she took the bus, when she took the bus to another corner is that
21 when she crossed?

22 A No she.. she's already in it.

23 Q Okay, so what was taking the bus to another part of the corner?

1 A For, for them to cross Robert.

2 Q Oh, okay.

3 A That night.

4 Q Okay. And who told you this?

5 A A friend of mine um, she's a trumpet player. Laneisha I don't know her last

6 name. It's like a Lawrence is there (Inaudible)... CIA.

7

8 Q Do you think Laneisha was there?

9 A Ah, the bus don't.. (Inaudible)... she wasn't there she just knows she's a junior.

10 So, she..

11 Q No I mean was she there when this might have occurred in the parking lot?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay.

14 A I doubt it.

15 Q So, the bus driver and you know what the bus driver's name is?

16 A I do not.

17 Q Okay.

18 A I didn't ride that bus.

19 Q So, this bus driver according to Laneisha, she crossed at some other time.

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 Q The night of Robert's situation?

22 A Right yeah.

23 Q She moved the bus.

24 A Yeah she's already in it.

25

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q I'm saying that that night she didn't cross over that night?

3 A No.

4 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

5 Q No, no. She crossed some night prior. No, but the night of Robert's thing she
6 supposedly took the bus and moved it away from all the other to another section
7 of the ...

8 A That's what I heard.

9 Qparking lot. Anybody else who knows that? Um, the bus being moved over
10 like that?

11 A You could ask other bus drivers if they noticed that the bus wasn't where you
12 park it. But it's ah, I heard that one of the bus drivers were filling out some form.
13 Maybe a consent form, she wasn't. She one of the one that wasn't. So, I.. we
14 don't know what that was about. But ..

15 Q Okay.

16 A ..people, just people walking around notice stuff.

17 Q And you know what time that supposedly occurred did she tell you?

18 A No I have no idea. I have no idea about which crossing night 'cause you not the
19 one to go through the hazing so you wouldn't think he'd be a part of it. Peer
20 pressure.

21 Q So, based on the what the Laneisha is saying the bus driver ah, was aware of the
22 crossing for Robert?

23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 Q Did she say the bus driver was present?

2 A I don't know (Inaudible)...

3 Q Okay.

4 A She said that. Probably not.

5 Q Anything else that you can think of?

6 A Um, I.. she also told me that after they found out Robert wasn't moving the upper
7 classmen that initiated the hazing went around the hotel asking for alcohol to rub
8 down his body take off their fingerprints.

9 Q Hm.

10 A They we need alcohol, we need alcohol. And nobody knew what it was for until
11 later.

12
13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q The threats that you received ah, via text were those sent?

15 A It was over Twitter. Like ah, it was like ah, telling you and your mom gonna put
16 my dick in your mouth you need to shut up you better not say nothing. Watch
17 your.. you might need a body guard when you get back to campus watch your
18 back when you get back to campus. Snitch, sellout all that kind of stuff.

19
20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21 Q Got anything else? Anything else that you can think of?

22 A It's not the whole band. It's not all upper classmen.

23 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

24 Q It's just that select few.

1 A Yeah just.. a angry freshman maybe bitter upperclassmen they feel like they
2 went through it everybody else does. Getting kind of respect.

3 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

4 Q Okay. Well if you, if any other situations make sure you contact right away.
5 Ah...

6 A Okay.

7 Q ...so that you can take that care. And just ah, you swear this statement that you
8 provided is the truth and nothing but the truth?
9

10 A Oh yes sir.


11 Q Okay. If necessary or you're asked again to repeat the same information would
12 you be willing to do that?

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q Okay. Alright we're gonna go ahead and end the statement it's about 5 after 5,
15 1705 hours.
16
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1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 23 day of March, 2012.

3 
4 _____
5 DETECTIVE David Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JEFFERY BASKIN**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

7 Q This is Detective Voyles I'll be in the room with Detective Phelan and Investigator
8 Cotton from FAMU. We'll be speaking to Jeffery Baskin in reference to case
9 number...

10 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

11 Q 11-...

12 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

13 Q 2011-101834; it is 903 hours on November 22nd, 2011. Jeffery do you promise
14 that everything you tell us today will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
15 the truth so help you God?

16 A Yes sir.

17 Q Okay.

18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q Okay again Jeffery I'm Detective Phelan, we're very glad you came in and spoke,
20 to speak with us today. Uh we're here investigating the uh death of uh you know
21 (inaudible). Uh what section are you in?

22 A I'm in the trumpet section but before I answer anything um I called my parenhts
23 before I came over here...

24 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

25 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

1 A And they asked me not to answer anything.
2 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
3 Q Un huh (Affirmative)
4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)
5 Q Okay.
6 A Um until I turn, talk an attorney.
7 Q Okay.
8 A Um cause (laughter) ...
9 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)
10 Q That's fine, I'm, we, we're not here to, to get you in trouble or anything like that
11 so...
12 A Yeah I, I, I'm just following what they said.
13 Q ...we're just trying to figure out what happen and let uh, if that's what you wanna
14 do then that's what you wanna do.
15 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
16 Q Let me get some up parliamentary information from him.
17 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)
18 Q Yeah.
19 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
20 Q Okay that will uh conclude this interview at this time. Uh...
21 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)
22 Q It is 9:04.
23
24
25

1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

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4 
5 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 A Yes sir.

2 Q And what section of the band are you a part of?

3 A Percussion, bass drum.

4 Q You're the bass drum?

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q Now how long have you been on the band in percussion section?

7 A Uh, 2 years. This is my second year.

8 Q Okay. Do you hold any title, any rank. I mean are you like ...

9 A No sir.

10 Q ...the sergeant on the right circle, left circle.

11 A No sir.

12 Q And I do have those right, right. There's a ...

13 A Yes, sir. Right ring sergeant and left ring sergeants, yes.

14 Q Okay. So you have no title at all?

15 A No, I don't.

16 Q Okay. Did you attend the Classic football game that weekend of the 18th, 19th?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q Okay, and what bus were you riding at?

19 A Bus C.

20 Q And you, have you been on Bus C this whole year?

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q Okay. Let me just take you back. On the 18th, I know November 18 you

23 traveled from Tallahassee to Orlando.

24 A Yes sir.

25 Q And there was an event. Did you go to the event at the Amway Arena?

1 A Oh, yes sir, the Battle of the Bands. Yes sir.

2 Q Okay. Prior, have you ever heard of the term hot seat?

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q Okay. Have you ever had a hot seat yourself?

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q Okay, when did you do, when did you go through?

7 A Um, it was the third game at (inaudible)...I'm not sure the exact date, but.

8 Q Third game this season?

9 A Yeah, uh, Atlanta Classic vers Southern University I believe.

10 Q Have you been through the hot seat portion more than once?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q How many times?

13 A Uh, 3.

14 Q Give me a little bit of background if you don't mind about the, the hot seat. I

15 mean, what does that entail? I mean is it band wide or is it bus seating? And

16 ...(overtalking)(inaudible).

17 A It's not the band, it's uh strictly just the bus, um, it's voluntary.

18 Q Right.

19 A Uh, I mean, I don't really know like exactly what you want to know.

20 Q Well, just how, I mean, do you, do you say hey, I want to go onto the...

21 A Oh, yeah, uh.

22 Q I'm talking 49 people, so I kinda got to adjust for what it is, from Harold's way.

23 A Yes, okay.

24 Q What, what do you understand. I mean, did somebody come up and say hey

25 (inaudible)(overtalking).

1 A Yeah, it's, I mean...(overtalking).
2 Q It's your time or is it, what?
3 A Oh, well, I mean, when it comes to that time, yes sir, but I mean from the
4 beginning it's either your freshman year, I mean. Most people either know
5 whether they're gonna do it or not, so. I mean, they don't just put your name on
6 the bus. Either you want to do it or you don't. If you don't want to do it, they'll put
7 your name on another bus that they'll have. They'll go to the people who are in
8 charge of assigning buses assignments. They'll go to them and have your name
9 taken off. But as far as I see, I mean, when it's your time to go, yeah, somebody
10 just like comes, taps you on your shoulder and you just go to the back of the bus.
11 Q Okay. Are there ever people on the bus that wouldn't know what's going on on
12 the back?
13 A Uh, yes, Dr. James. Um, the photographer, he sits in the left seat. I'm not sure
14 of his name. Uh, and the bus driver, I mean, that's (inaudible).
15 Q So is there, is there, is the bus in such a position that you could get a hot seat in
16 the back.
17 A Yes sir.
18 Q And nobody in the front of the bus would, would know.
19 A Yeah, I mean, uh, it's really like, it's usually movies playing. You, you wouldn't
20 really hear any noise. They try to keep it as quiet as possible, but um, I mean,
21 it's no way that, unless you like actually went to the back there. Go to the
22 restroom or something, that's probably the only way you would know.
23 Q Okay, explain to me how your hot seat was. I mean, what, what?
24 A Well, mine is they put a, a cover over you so you don't know who's doing it.
25 Q Okay.

1 A And, I mean, basically, it's probably about 30 seconds at the most. 30, well 30
2 seconds to a minute. I mean, and it just like a some people, it like play cadences
3 on your back or something. It's nothing too painful or anything so I mean, that's
4 pretty much all hot seat.

5 Q So they hitting you with their hand or playing like a drum on there or?

6 A No, like, maybe like drum sticks, like playing cadences like some sort of like, the
7 snare drum or something.

8 Q Now, who determines the severity of the hot seat?

9 A I mean, it's, honestly it's people on, on their own agenda. Some people uh, they
10 like cross over until the bus and they don't participate at all in the hazing. Some
11 people just do it just for the respect. But I mean, as far as, far as.

12 Q Yeah, I'm saying, say is there a hierarchy of personnel on the bus? I mean, is
13 there, is there bus president?

14 A Oh yes.

15 Q Okay, who's the president on the bus now, I mean, as of November? Do you
16 remember?

17 A Um, I want to say Dante Martin. I'm not sure though.

18 Q Okay. So if I was, if Dante's the president, he would come up and tap somebody
19 on the shoulder.

20 A No, he uh, I mean, far as know, he really doesn't participate in the hazing.

21 Q Okay.

22 A But, I mean, it's, it's usually someone, someone else. With us, um, like class of
23 2010, that would be the class that was doing the bus this year, so usually do it
24 your second year. Uh, who was in charge, well, I mean, it's, it's usually just a
25 random person.

1 Q So there is no hierarchy on the bus.

2 A It's really not.

3 Q I'm take you to Florida Classic. You guys get up there to the Battle of the Bands,
4 was there any hazing or any hot seats performed on the way to the Battle of the
5 Bands? That you could recall?

6 A That, honestly, uh, as far as going there, I'm not sure, I don't think, usually when
7 we're on our way to a performance we don't get anything or they don't wanna
8 affect the performance of the person during the show.

9 Q How about that Friday evening from Orlando back to the hotel?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You remember who was hot seated?

12 A Uh, I want to say uh, (inaudible) oh, uh, I think it was Edwin Rocker.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Um, who else, who else? Jemon Green, I believe.

15 Q Okay.

16 A That's pretty much all I remember.

17 Q Were you involved in either one of the two...(overtalking).

18 A No sir.

19 Q ...hot seats. Where were you positioned on the bus when that happened?

20 A I usually sit like probably, I was sitting no further than 6 seats to the back, uh, like
21 going 1, 2, 3, 4.

22 Q From the front?

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q You're 6 seats back. How did you know that there was a hot seat going on? I
25 mean, was it?

1 A I mean, usually, uh, you'll know like a person if they go up to the front and talk to
2 somebody that person will walk backwards to the back of the bus, so you don't
3 know what's gonna happen.

4 Q Did you see either one of these two walk to the back?

5 A Friday, um, oh, yes.

6 Q Do you remember who walked them back there? Who would have been the one
7 who tapped them on the shoulder and take them back?

8 A No sir. It, I mean, after, after the Battle of the Bands, it's usually dark. Uh, the
9 turn the, the lights in the bus all off so I mean you can't really see anything. And I
10 wear glasses which I don't have, haven't had since about August so I really can't
11 see a lot.

12 Q But you know those two went back?

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q And did you see them when they came back? Or do they stay on the back of the
15 bus until it arrives at it's destination?

16 A Oh no, you, you can go back to your seat. I mean, after the 30 seconds to a
17 minute, uh, you just go back to your seat.

18 Q Could you see them come back to their seats?

19 A Yes sir.

20 Q How, what was their demeanor? I mean, were they good or sick
21 or...(overtalking).

22 A Were like just...(overtalking).

23 Q Tired or look like they had a beating or what? You...

24 A Uh, honestly, to be honest, I, I really can't tell you to be honest from memory but
25 uh, I wouldn't think it was anything like really noticeable.

1 Q I know you did it 3 times. Would you want it again?

2 A No sir. (Laughs) No.

3 Q Okay, why wouldn't you want it again?

4 A Uh, I mean to be honest, I wouldn't, I wouldn't have done this process at all. To

5 be um, when I was about to do it, maybe the second trip when I was like started

6 the process, I wanted to stop just for the fact that I'm not a person. Like the way I

7 was raised, I'm not a person that just let's somebody beat on me for fun. So, I

8 mean, I wanted to end it and be like we always talked about being a class that,

9 that ends the hazing and all that stuff. But, I mean, to be honest, I wouldn't do it

10 again. I probably, I wouldn't even associate with it. I really don't even associate

11 with it right now.

12 Q Did you do the hot seat and the crossing over? All of it?

13 A Would I? Oh no.

14 Q I said, did you?

15 A Oh yes.

16 Q Okay. Let me ask you on that Friday night, they did the hot seats on Rocker and

17 Green. Did, was anybody else involved that you know or was involved in the hot

18 seat?

19 A As far as?

20 Q Participant or victim? If you want to say victim as a, willing participant or giving

21 the hot seat or?

22 A (Inaudible) I think, I can't say yes, but I can't say no either.

23 Q But those are the only two you remember. After you guys got back to the Rosen

24 Hotel, did you guys? What did you do? Did you get off the bus? Go to your

25 room? Or could they...(inaudible)(overtalking).

1 A Well, Friday night I went, uh, I remember going to my room and then I came back
2 downstairs. I was getting ready to go, I usually go to my parents hotel, was the
3 Westgate um, resort.

4 Q Um hum.

5 A I usually go there after the Battle of the Bands Fridays, so I was just waiting for
6 my parents to pick me up.

7 Q Okay. Did you stay with them Friday night?

8 A Uh, I ended up, I ended up just staying at the hotel.

9 Q Who was your roommate that night? You remember?

10 A Edwin Calhoun, uh, Jessie Bascomb and Caleb Jackson.

11 Q So you have Jackson, Calhoun.

12 A And uh, Bascomb.

13 Q Bascomb?

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q Were they roommates for the whole weekend?

16 A Oh, yes sir. It was, uh, you usually have the same roommates though you're...

17 Q Now Saturday morning you guys get up to go the band, or the ball game?

18 A Oh, yes sir.

19 Q On the way to the ball game, did anybody get a hot seat?

20 A No. I remember if, know, and I don't know the...

21 Q Okay. The um, do you remember if any female got a hot seat that day before the
22 game?

23 A Uh, I'm not, I know which female you're talking about. Lissette Sanchez. I'm not
24 sure if she had one that day. I don't, I really don't think she did though.

25 Q Okay.

1 A I was, I mean not that day. Uh, just that be going...yeah.

2 Q That morning?

3 A That morning.

4 Q After the ball game, when it was hot and all that, did anybody get a hot seat or?

5 A I believe she did.

6 Q She did after the game?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Is she the only one from the game to the hotel?

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q That you can remember. Did you, you remember who brought her to the back or

11 any particulars about that?

12 A No, honestly not.

13 Q Okay. But you were sure that was after the game?

14 A Yes sir. Well, yes, I am. (Inaudible)

15 Q Okay. You remember. Would you see her on the field if she was playing in a

16 year and a half time or the performance? Do you remember if she played or not?

17 A Oh yeah, she did.

18 Q Okay. Okay. So after the game you get back to the hotel. You guys all go back

19 to the hotel. What, what did you do at that point?

20 A Um, I remember. We got off the bus. I remember I went back to my room. Most

21 people, well, some people, like stayed downstairs on the bus and some people

22 like uh, went up to their rooms. I remember coming back. I had came back

23 down afts of, downstairs after I went up to my room though.

24 Q Okay. You went up to your room?

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Did you come back down to the bus at any point?

2 A Yes sir.

3 Q Okay, and you remember about what time?

4 A Honestly, no.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Um.

7 Q And what was the reason you came back down to the bus?

8 A To check on my freshman sister, Lissette.

9 Q Okay. What.

10 A Because I know she was going through at that time, so after she went through I

11 just went back to the back of the bus and make sure she was alright and then I

12 left.

13 Q Okay. Let me ask you. How did you know she was going crossing through that

14 night?

15 A Uh, if you haven't done it, I mean, it, it's like you're on process.

16 Q Um hum.

17 A And there are people who go through at different times. At Classic is where it

18 usually ends at. If you haven't done it by Classic, then that's the time you'll go

19 through.

20 Q Oh, okay. So that's the grand finale of everything.

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q So your, your friend Lissette was going to go through.

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q That evening.

25 A Okay. So when you get on the bus, was Lissette already through or?

1 A Well, when I got on, I mean, she was about, no she hadn't started by the time I
2 got on. She was uh, still in the front.

3 Q Okay. Who was going through? Do you remember when you got on?

4 A Oh, she, she was the first one.

5 Q She was the first one to go through?

6 A Saturday, yes. She was the first one. Well, Saturday night.

7 Q Is, would it be the first, safe to say the first one that you knew of, or she was the
8 first one?

9 A I said that I know of.

10 Q Okay, was there any, did you see anybody that went after her?

11 A Keon Hollis. He went second to her.

12 Q Okay.

13 A 'Cause I remember uh, when Keon was...(overtalking).

14 Q Lissette went first.

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q And Keon.

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q Keon was second. Do you see who went third?

19 A No sir. That by that time I remember when Keon finished, I, he was on the floor.
20 I helped him in the seat and I was checking on Lissette. After I talked to her, I
21 just left, 'cause my parents were coming to pick me up.

22 Q Okay, now, I'll go back, how, you knew because it was going to be the end of the
23 year, there would be a...

24 A Yes sir.

25

1 Q A cross. Did anybody tell you when you got off the bus after getting back that, to
2 meet back here at a certain time or?

3 A Well, yeah, I, uh, ...

4 Q How did you know to be back?

5 A Some people, well, I know that she was going. It's usually like, they just wait till
6 most of the band is gone. But I knew that uh, some people still on the bus, I
7 mean, if you see people stay on the bus, usually something is gonna happen.
8 And it's like people around it, so I just came back down and I knew she was
9 about to go through 'cause she, we had just talked to her.

10 Q Um hum.

11 A So we just, we, basically knew that she was going through.

12 Q Okay, and have you ever participated in any cross over yourself in the past?

13 A No sir.

14 Q Did you participate in this one in any form or fashion?

15 A No sir. Besides, I mean, seeing...

16 Q Well, I mean, hey lis, let me make, I mean, to be thorough on our stuff, I mean,
17 there's all kinds of things that we have to include the witness statements, but um,
18 but, course other investigative things that we do. The uh, I'm giving you the
19 opportunity, I mean, when I say were you involved (inaudible)...were you
20 involved in pushing, pulling, of, of how?

21 A Oh, oh yes sir.

22 Q Did, did you, were you involved in any grabbing anybody, hitting anybody?

23 A No.

24 Q Kicking anybody, grabbing their feet, holding them back or any of that nature?

25 A Well, I mean, when you put it like that, yes sir.

1 Q Okay, walk, walk me through when you get on the bus Lissette's getting ready to
2 go through?

3 A Yes sir. She's at the front.

4 Q So, okay.

5 A Standing in the front.

6 Q And at, where, where you involved in helping her or...

7 A Yes.

8 Q Or, okay, and how, how, what transpired with that? I know your friend or so.

9 A Yes, usually like, when someone's going through, like the objective is just to get
10 to the back of the bus.

11 Q Okay.

12 A So, I mean, it's people, when, when you, like, they say, I guess, the word would
13 be send the nigger through.

14 Q Um hum.

15 A So, I mean, she would start trying to push her way to the front. I'm usually, I was
16 like, I think I was maybe the 3rd seat.

17 Q Um hum.

18 A I know I was in the front of the bus. So it's like, when that person gets to you, I
19 mean, you choose to do whatever you want. You can, I mean, you can, some
20 people even follow other people back and forth just to help, but I mean, with her,
21 she got to me. I remember like turning, like grab her almost at her waist, like
22 trying to.

23 Q Um hum.

24 A Like trying to like push her through, like pull her, I guess you could say. But, I
25 mean, that's pretty much it. Then uh,...

1 Q Now is your helping her, pushing or pulling, whatever you describe it are you
2 heading toward the back of the bus?

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q What are the other people doing on the bus at that time?

5 A I mean, it's some people like, like I say waiting for her, or to get to where their at
6 and...

7 Q What do they do when they get, when she gets there?

8 A I mean, people choose to do whatever they want. It's...

9 Q What did they do that time?

10 A I can't, honestly, say what each person did, but I mean, I know a variety of people
11 were hitting a lot.

12 Q Um hum.

13 A I would say like not really like punching. I know that right before she went
14 through, people were it was like some people were even get kicked, but with her I
15 remember they saying something about she was having problems with her back
16 or some sort of problems. I remember them saying so they said do not put your
17 foot on her, so I mean, I remember that part, but far as I can maybe say like, like
18 people be like I want to way like maybe like hitting like this, like maybe like
19 hitting her back while she's going through. Or she has (inaudible)...so they be
20 like slapping her back maybe.

21 Q Was she in any pain or anything of that nature?

22 A Oh yeah, I could see she was.

23 Q Okay. You remember any specific person that actually struck her? And I know
24 it's tough but I mean, all I'm asking for is a (inaudible) statement, I mean.

25 A Yeah, I know, I know.

1 Q And this is best talked to before to come out. It's not later somebody else saying
2 you standing right there when they popped over. You know hit him.

3 A I know to be, that's why I, I gave you a statement about my uh, like not seeing
4 with glasses or whatever and it being dark.

5 Q (Inaudible)

6 A But I mean, to be honest, you, you really can't see on the bus unless you like,
7 you just know who it is or you just talking to the person or looking at him, actually
8 seeing him do it. You really can't see anything on the bus.

9 Q Of those two scenarios, you're, you're, you have
10 actually...(overtalking)(inaudible).

11 A I'm right there so...(overtalking)(inaudible).

12 Q You recognize anybody that was in there talking or anybody that was that close.
13 Did you get hit yourself?

14 A Oh yes. I remember that.

15 Q You remember who hit you?

16 A Uh, no I just remember getting hit right here on my finger with a mallet. I
17 remember I felt it.

18 Q With a mallet?

19 A Yes sir. I remember uh, it had just happened. I mean it was our standing Jarrod
20 Dease, he was like pushing, I can't, I can't remember who was going through at
21 that time. But somebody was going through and Jarrod was trying to help them
22 through and it go to the point where we just like everybody just like trying to push
23 this person to the back. Like just get to the back. And I remember somebody
24 struck my hand with a mallet so I, I, I just like, like, I just left it alone at that point.
25 I just went back in the seat and I remember right after I got hit with that mallet,

1 somebody hit him in the face with something. I don't remember what that was,
2 but I know he was going crazy about it.

3 Q Calhoun?

4 A No, uh, Jarrod Dease.

5 Q Somebody hit Jarrod Dease in the face?

6 A Yes, yes sir.

7 Q Was that like a wild swing or something?

8 A Yeah, I'm guessing.

9 Q You don't remember who was going through at that time?

10 A Honestly, no sir.

11 Q How many people did you assist through this, this, this...

12 A I could honestly say she was the only person uh, that I really helped through as
13 far as...

14 Q How did you get involved with your hand getting hit by another person. That
15 would have had to be either.

16 A I mean, no I remember like, when I was leaving. It was, this one, when I got hit
17 on the hand, that's the point where I was leaving the bus, like, actually, like
18 walking, like towards the bus the get off. So um, I mean, not towards the bus,
19 but I mean, to the...

20 Q To that...

21 A The door, yeah.

22 Q Front door.

23 A So I mean, I'm like, I remember my hand like almost, I want to say like on the
24 back like pushing so it, I mean, at that point it could have been her.

25

1 Q Let me ask you. Let me stop you (inaudible)... Your sister was sent to the back.
2 People are striking. There's no lights on. Was the bus running? Or was it off?
3 A Uh, wanna say, I wanna say off.
4 Q Was it hot in there?
5 A Oh yes, it's definitely hot.
6 Q Okay, so you're pushing her through. People are striking, hitting her.
7 A Yeah.
8 Q Are they hitting her with mallets or anything else or just hands, you remember?
9 A Well, I remember hands, pacifically, but I mean you could choose to hit a person
10 or whatever you like, I mean. But with her, yeah, I mean.
11 Q I know they'd already given the warning and all that.
12 A Yeah.
13 Q Once you get to the back wall, what's supposed to happen?
14 A You done.
15 Q Okay. So, if you were coming back out with her, why would
16 they...(overtalking)(inaudible).
17 A Oh, I didn't come out, I didn't come out with her.
18 Q Oh, okay.
19 A She was like, when I, I told you when I went to the back to assist her, Keon Hollis
20 had just finished through. I remember seeing him on the floor like catching his
21 breath or whatever, after he was done, catching his breath. I remember, I helped
22 him into the seat right in front of the bathroom and once I helped him into the
23 seat, she was in, I like at the bathroom is right here.
24 Q Um hum.
25

1 A That's where the seat in on that on the right side of the bus and then it's like you
2 come on this side. It's the seat right here. The seat right here and it's the last
3 seat in the back. So she was like in the last seat in the back, like all where the
4 wall is.

5 Q So she gets on. You're helping her through. You help her all the
6 way...(overtalking)(inaudible).

7 A No, it's not, no I didn't help her all the way to the back. I mean, that's, that's
8 to...(overtalking).

9 Q She gets to you, where you're at...(overtalking)(inaudible).

10 A Yeah, I help her...

11 Q Push her from there on.

12 A No, I pushed her probably, maybe 2 seats. I mean.

13 Q Okay, so she has already started with the front.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q And she gets toward the back, she about ready to go out something, I mean, like
16 what ...(inaudible)...all the way to the back.

17 A I mean, usually when you, when you finish, uh, it's like most people just catching
18 their breath. I know when I finished, I have bronchitis so I mean, it was kind of
19 hard for me to breathe, so I'm just sitting in the back just catching my breath or
20 whatever.

21 Q And is that 'cause of the heat and ...

22 A Yeah (inaudible).

23 Q And the beating, basically.

24 A Yeah.

25 Q So she gets back there. She's close to the wall. You help her.

1 A No, I, I, mean, she have my hand, I remember giving her my right hand and I was
2 asking her if she was alright and she was trying to talk.
3 Q This was after (inaudible).
4 A Yes sir.
5 Q Okay.
6 A No, I mean, it's after, after like, even after Keon went. I mean, I didn't go to the
7 back to actually assist her until he was finished.
8 Q You were there.
9 A Yes sir.
10 Q Okay. (Inaudible) This event was happening, but you were gonna help your
11 friend, Lissette. Your position is near the back of the bus.
12 A No, in the front. I told you like the 3rd seat.
13 Q You're in the front.
14 A Yeah. So I helped her probably like 2 seats. I didn't
15 actually... (overtalking)(inaudible).
16 Q Oh, you didn't take her all the way to the back.
17 A Yeah, that what I... (overtalking).
18 Q How did you end up all the way in the back?
19 A I told you, I walked, I mean I didn't go to the back until Keon was finished.
20 Q Oh, say, so Keon goes through.
21 A Yes, and then I went to the back.
22 Q Okay.
23 A I pretty much just watched this whole thing.
24 Q (Inaudible)...hit your hand with a mallet, with Keon.
25 A Yes sir, that's what I was kind of thinking in my head, but I didn't want to say.

1 Q No, that's fine. I mean, it wasn't Lissette until it'll be somebody else.

2 A Yeah, yes.

3 Q The only other person you helped was Keon.

4 A Keon, yes sir.

5 Q Okay. How did you get Keon to the back?

6 A I mean, I really didn't help him to the back. I just remember like trying to push

7 almost, like, push his back.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Like I remember he was on the floor for a long time. Almost like right in front of

10 me like, and by the time he got up, like it's almost like he could like, when he,

11 when he started, like I was maybe probably 4 seat, 4, 3rd seat. Where I was

12 second the first time I mean.

13 Q He went to the floor?

14 A Oh yes, uh, like when he, when he started, he pushed through real quick and I

15 guess he, I don't know how he like fell or whatever, but I mean, once you get on

16 the ground, pretty much anything can happen. So I remember when he got back

17 up, I remember we was trying to push him, like push him in his back. But, it's

18 like, if, if, people are pushing you, uh, other people gonna try to like keep you

19 from going to the back, so I mean, we...(overtalking)(inaudible).

20 Q If you're pushing. They're pushing the other way.

21 A (Inaudible)

22 Q It's a back and forth...

23 A It's yeah, it's yes, yes.

24 Q They're struggling...

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Go into the wall. Is it like a chaotic type of deal?

2 A Yeah, it is.

3 Q Okay. So you're pushing. Keon is trying to get to the back. People pushing the
4 other way. He's already been on the ground. He gets to the back. You, you go
5 all the way with him to the back?

6 A Oh I didn't, no, no. I never go all the way to the back 'cause it's too much of a
7 risk of getting hit for some like...(overtalking).

8 Q What's, how you end up helping him up off the ground down there?

9 A Oh, like, I walked to, after like, when he's finished, when you're finished, usually
10 you touch the back and, and everybody says like the word.

11 Q What's the word?

12 A Associated be huah.

13 Q Right.

14 A Usually Huah, or whatever.

15 Q Um.

16 A So once everybody says that, you know that person is through and usually, I
17 mean, once you done, you naturally just want to catch your breath. You just
18 want to breathe. So I mean, I remember him on the floor like laying down and
19 breathing and I remember helping her up. I mean helping him up into the right
20 seat and then I went to assist her. That's when I left.

21 Q Okay, did you follow them off the bus at all?

22 A Oh, no, they was still on the bus when I left.

23 Q Okay.

24 A It was still, it was still, uh...(overtalking).

25 Q So he was trying to catch his breath. Was he sick or throwing up or anything?

1 A Keon Hollis? No. No nothing...(overtalking).
2 Q He was just trying to catch so you assist him up to a chair.
3 A Yeah, yes sir. And I grabbed her hand.
4 Q Lissette.
5 A She's like...
6 Q She down on the ground?
7 A No, she's in a seat, in a back seat.
8 Q Okay.
9 A I would say all the way back to the wall.
10 Q She sick?
11 A I mean, she's just breathing far as I know. So I grab her hand. I mean, she give
12 me her hand. She, I gave her my right hand and I was asking her was she okay.
13 Q Right.
14 A And I remember her answering me. So after that, after she told me she was
15 okay, that she was going to be alright. Then that's when I left.
16 Q Okay, did you ever see Robert Champion on the bus? Uh, on the bus?
17 A Yes sir. I mean, oh yeah, that's who it was. Uh, he was the last person, that's
18 what it was.
19 Q So you had Lissette.
20 A Yeah.
21 Q Keon.
22 A I remember uh, he was getting ready to start...
23 Q (Inaudible)
24 A ...right when I left. He was getting ready to start.
25 Q Okay. Did he start?

1 A No. Or did...I want to say, I think he did. He did start.

2 Q How far up in the line, aisle was he trying to leave the bus when he started?

3 A Probably at the, I say, maybe 5th seat. More like I was walking. Walking back to

4 the front.

5 Q Right.

6 A Like usually start, when the person starts they are like at the front of the door, so

7 I mean, you can't, you can't really walk through it.

8 Q Right.

9 A So, I mean, he would be at the front and I remember I was maybe almost, I

10 remember whatever seat I was in, it's a TV right there. It's a TV like right above

11 the head, I remember.

12 Q Um hum.

13 A So uh, like I, as I was walking, I mean, I could, I could like see him about to start

14 and then once he, like...(overtalking)(inaudible).

15 Q Once he got going, you can't get out of the bus.

16 A Oh, you can. No, you just. I mean, you really can't just move like while he's

17 about to start. But, I mean, once he moves you can go.

18 Q Did you participate in any of him pushing her or pulling in the bus?

19 A Pushing, no. I honestly, to, to...

20 Q No. I mean, need to really remember and be clear because, I mean, I'm not

21 saying you punched or kicked or...

22 A Oh, no, I didn't do anything.

23 Q It, with, Mr. Champion, did you have any time you either pushed or pulled to help

24 him get through or you can do whatever you need to get done.

25

1 A I mean, as I'm thinking, like that's what, what I'm trying to remember, 'cause I
2 remember uh, that's what when I said I couldn't remember who the person was.
3 Q Um hum.
4 A Now I'm starting to think it was, it was Robert that was going through at that time,
5 when I got my hand hit.
6 Q So, how...
7 A That's what I'm starting to think.
8 Q So were you in front of him or behind him.
9 A No, that's the, that's the front. Maybe like I remember it's the, it's the left side.
10 Whatever uh, seat the TV is on, on left side. I remember that's the exact seat I
11 was in 'cause I remember hitting my head on the back of the, I mean the TV
12 when I was like standing like almost.
13 Q Is that about halfway down the bus or?
14 A Oh, no, it's, it's like still the front.
15 Q Okay. The front third of the bus.
16 A Yes.
17 Q So are you in front of Mr. Champion or behind him.
18 A Like, I'm in, like, when he's like right there when they say send the nig through,
19 he was, like naturally start push. I was in the like seat almost like as I would be
20 like right now.
21 Q Um hum.
22 A But instead like my knee would be in the seat like this so I, I would just be
23 looking.
24 Q Right.

25

1 A That's usually how I am. So when, I mean I just wait pretty much for him to pass
2 me to leave.

3 Q Okay, but how did you get your hand hit?

4 A I wanna say.

5 Q I know somewhere along the way, you ended up either in front of him or behind
6 him into that chaotic mess.

7 A Yeah, I remember it was ended up being a collision like when I was leaving the
8 bus. I remember like when I was leaving.

9 Q Um hum.

10 A There was like right almost right almost, right at the seat that I was at. Like right
11 there.

12 Q You, you , you see what I'm saying? I know that you're involved in the chaotic
13 moving of Mr. Champion in the bus at some point in time. I don't know how long.
14 But I know you were involved in that somewhere. I'm just, how far were you in
15 front of him, behind him and how far back.

16 A I was in behind.

17 Q So you were behind pushing?

18 A No, oh, with Robert like I really didn't push at all, to be honest.

19 Q So they were pushing you along with the crowd toward the back.

20 A No, I said I was in the seat.

21 Q Right.

22 A Like in the seat like standing, like watching so by the time he got here, I
23 remember like that's when like right when he got next to me, maybe like the seat
24 behind me, that's when I left. But I remember, I remember did, I did make
25 contact with him at, at a point when he was like at my seat.

1 Q Okay.

2 A So I could say you get a let us push maybe. But like I mean, as far as striking, I

3 never strike anybody.

4 Q When somebody hits you in the hand or the mouth, was that at that time?

5 A That's, that's what I wanna say, like.

6 Q Did you get?

7 A Like almost ...(overtalking)(inaudible).

8 Q What I'm saying is, is did you come out, doing your thing push him out of the way

9 and go down and get caught up in that crowd or?

10 A No, like, say like. My, my hand is like almost like, if he's like, if he's like on like

11 pushing through like this almost, like my hands probably would touched his back

12 at the most. Like when I was leaving the bus, well, not leaving, I mean, like

13 about to leave the bus, like almost like, like,...I'm, uh, like pushing, I guess that's

14 what you would say, like pushing and then that's when my hand was struck. I

15 remember that's when I walked to the front of the bus, I remember uh, that's

16 when Dease was talking about he was, he was still going on about like

17 somebody hit him in the face and I remember I, I, talked to him maybe 15

18 seconds about that and that's when I left.

19 Q While you were on the bus?

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Was you, you're talking to Dease about him getting hit?

22 A Well, I mean not, like, he was just like talking about how, how does I remember

23 exactly he was saying like how people take it overboard. That's exactly...

24

25

1 Q Okay, I know this is slow motion with us talking about it. I just want, clear, you
2 did not make it all the way any form or fashion to the back of the bus with Mr.
3 Champion.
4 A No sir.
5 Q Okay. At some point you did put hands on him.
6 A Yes sir.
7 Q And that's when he passed your seat.
8 A Yes sir.
9 Q And is that typically what everybody else was doing putting hands on him as he's
10 going by?
11 A Well, no, I mean, far as people, most people honestly most people don't help.
12 Q Um hum.
13 A I mean to, to, like for somebody to help you.
14 Q Right.
15 A Either you, you know that person real well or I mean, ...
16 Q You risk a, you risk it yourself if you help?
17 A Yeah, pretty much, yeah.
18 Q Okay. So if you went hands on you're doing your thing to push him down
19 make...(overtalking)(inaudible).
20 A That's why I said I never helped anybody all the way to the back.
21 Q Right, (inaudible).
22 A 'Cause you risk you being hit yourself.
23 Q So you're at your seat. It's your turn, move forward through.
24 A Yeah.
25 Q Alright. And during that time somebody ends up hitting you also with a mallet.

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q And during that time, someone else gets hit in the face.

3 A Uh, Jarrod Dease.

4 Q Okay, is he right across from your or something? Or close?

5 A He's like, like I remember oh, with Keon, Jarrod was like, I would say Jarrod

6 probably helped him the whole time. He was probably the only one. I remember

7 that. He like tried to help him.

8 Q (Inaudible)

9 A Yeah, no, well, I mean, we kept, with Robert, I remember Jarrod didn't help him

10 from him from, I mean, even from the beginning. I remember that like, he's a

11 drum major, they were drum majors together and I know that Jarrod and Robert

12 were real close. So I know for a fact that Jarrod had to help him.

13 Q So Jarrod was helping ...

14 A Robert.

15 Q Champion all the way to the back of the bus.

16 A Yeah. Well, I mean, I wanna say all the way to the back, 'cause I left, well, it

17 couldn't been to the back anyway because once he got hit, he started fussing

18 about, I mean, that person hit him and he was, he just went back to the front.

19 Q You did not see Mr. Champion all the way to the back of the bus?

20 A No sir.

21 Q Once you got off the bus what did you do?

22 A I went back to my room and then uh, I remember in my room, it was 2 alumni, we

23 had let them stay in our room.

24 Q Who was that?

25 A Oh, I, I honestly don't know their real names.

1 Q Um hum.

2 A 'Cause I was just meeting them at that time. But I can tell you both had dreds. I
3 could say that.

4 Q Okay.

5 A But again, uh, we were waiting, so I'm, I'm waiting. My phone was dead, well, it's
6 broken. So I'm using. I use my roommates phone to call my sister's phone to
7 see where she was at because she was the one that was supposed to come pick
8 me up. So then I remember uh,...(overtalking)(inaudible).

9 Q Do you remember what time it was?

10 A No sir.

11 Q Okay.

12 A So I remember uh, by the time one of my roommates came back, he uh, Edwin,
13 uh, well, Edwin Calhoun was one of my roommates. He had already gone with
14 his parents from the, from the get go. Uh, one of my roommates came back and
15 then they was all talking about it, but I had got in the shower so when I got out,
16 one of my roommates had left and then when he came back he was like, uh, I
17 heard he flatlined but everybody said he's okay. So I'm thinking...(overtalking).

18 Q Who was that?

19 A Uh, Jessie Bascomb. That's what he told me.

20 Q So Bascomb said he flatlined?

21 A Yeah, he had just talked to, he said he had just talked to drum major Rikka.

22 Q Right.

23 A So uh, once Jessie uh, he was like, but they say he's okay. So, I mean, we
24 thinking he alright. That's when I remember after my sister called, or it was like
25 awhile with me and my sister going back and forth. I was using Jessie's phone to

1 call my sister to see where she was. So I remember once she called me to say
2 she was downstairs, I grabbed my suitcase and that's when I left. And then
3 maybe I say probably 2, maybe uh, around that time, it was like early Sunday
4 morning. It was like between the time of 1 and 2, Evan call my phone and he
5 was like, and he was like people saying Robert dead but he hadn't heard the
6 whole story hisself because he was with uh, his parents or whatever. So when
7 he got back to the hotel, that's when he called me. He called me back again and
8 he was like hey, they was like, he like, he, he dead, like everybody saying he
9 dead. He was like his parents had call, uh text one of the, the girls that play
10 piccolo and she said he was dead. So I mean, once I heard that, I was in shock.
11 I mean, to, to even like seen part of it, like it kinda, like (inaudible)...like a person,
12 like for to know that you are part of something that, that, the person, like, do that
13 to a person.

14 Q Um hum. Was your 2 roommates on the bus when that happened?

15 A I believe so, yes sir.

16 Q And Evan Calhoun is your roommate?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q Where's he at? Is that him?

19 A Yes sir.

20 Q Okay, good, 'cause I been looking for him all week. Okay. And I asked and
21 Jessie was on the bus.

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Could you see him at any time during the 3 people that you were on the bus
24 with? Where was he at on the bus? You remember? Was he up there in the
25 from with you or down?

1 A I think...

2 Q ...further.

3 A Prob, I think he was probably toward the back. Further towards the back.

4 Q Okay. And it's Jessie Bascomb? Is that who we're talking about?

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q Is, is he your roommate? Not only at the events, is your also your roommate

7 here in Tallahassee?

8 A Oh, no sir.

9 Q Okay, it's just you and uh...

10 A Well, I mean, Evan, he's not my roommate, he just like, he's, my apartment is

11 just ...

12 Q Okay.

13 A ...right behind his and we was just real close, 'cause I mean our families.

14 Q Okay, so Bascomb, Calhoun, yourself are on there for at least 3 incidents.

15 Lissette, Hollis. You were there for part of Champion.

16 A Yes sir.

17 Q Anybody else get off the bus with you when...

18 A Aaron uh Golson, I remember.

19 Q Aaron Golson?

20 A Well, I mean, ...

21 Q When you left this Champion started going through...(overtalking)(inaudible).

22 A Yeah, yeah, uh...

23 Q Was anybody leaving the bus with you?

24 A Golson was, was, Aaron Golson.

25 Q Okay, Aaron Golson.

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q And he came off it when Cham, Champion...

3 A Champion, yes sir.

4 Q ...went. So he was on there when Hollis and Lissette went through.

5 A Yeah, 'cause I remember uh, we stood, like, we stood outside for a good minute

6 having conversation. I want to say that me and Aaron actually got off at the

7 same time.

8 Q Um hum.

9 A But we ended up like meeting back up with each other between that

10 conversation.

11 Q What was your conversation about?

12 A Well, I mean, like we just like talking about random things, like walking back to

13 the hotel. I remember...

14 Q Okay. Did, did you see him in the bus?

15 A No, I, I know for a fact that he was in the back.

16 Q Well, how do you know that for a fact?

17 A Well, I want to say it for a fact because I've hear stories about everything that

18 happened. I got calls from...

19 Q I don't want a, here's the thing, I want to know what you know.

20 A Well.

21 Q Did you know he was on the back?

22 A Well, I know he was on there.

23 Q Okay.

24 A But I wouldn't, like his exact position, I couldn't see. I remember, I remember

25 seeing him in the front where I was. That's what I can see.

1 Q Now when Lissette, when you get to the back was Lissette and Hollis, did you
2 see anybody hitting or striking anybody or?
3 A When, I mean, at that time, nothing was going on. Like, Keon and both
4 Lissette...
5 Q (Overtalking)(Inaudible)
6 A ...they was both, yeah, they was both finished.
7 Q Okay. Did you have any conversation with Aaron about the uh...
8 A No sir.
9 Q Cross over.
10 A No sir.
11 Q But he left as Robert was coming on.
12 A Well, that's what I was saying. I mean, he didn't leave at the exact time I did.
13 Q He left after Robert went through. Did you meet up with him in the parking lot?
14 A Yeah, that's what I'm, I'm thinking, like, during my time we probably met up.
15 That's when we met up.
16 Q Was more than one person coming off of that bus? I mean, was everybody
17 starting to get off that bus when you saw them in the parking lot?
18 A Aaron, uh, no, it was pretty much just us walking like towards there.
19 Q Okay, so everybody else was still on the bus.
20 A Yeah, most people were.
21 Q Did you look back at the bus? Was it still moving? Or was it still?
22 A No, sir, I ain't look. I mean, once you like, once you pass the bus, it, it's we have
23 about 9 or 8, 8 or 9 one of them, and so they're like lined up like almost like right
24 next to each other, so, I mean, once you like pass the buses you really can't see
25 what's going on.

1 Q Now you get off the bus. Robert's still going through the bus, uh, through the uh,
2 cross over. As you're going out of the bus, some short time later, Aaron
3 Golson...

4 A Meets up with me, yes sir.

5 Q Meets up with you out in the parking lot?

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q And the, whatever's going on in the bus is still going on in the bus?

8 A Well, I mean, that's what I'm saying.

9 Q That you know of.

10 A I'm, yeah. Pretty much sir.

11 Q You don't know what's going on but.

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q It's not a mad rush of people coming off the bus.

14 A No, it's not.

15 Q Okay. So then you go on up to the room.

16 A Yes sir.

17 Q Did Aaron go to his room or did he go with you?

18 A Oh, not, uh, he, we went elevator way, I think he went to his room. I don't even
19 think we were on the same floor. I remember my floor was 3. I think his was 4.

20 Q Did you talk to Lissette any more that night?

21 A No sir.

22 Q Oh.

23 A I mean, once I left with my parents, I didn't have a phone at all.

24 Q Okay, so you go up and take a shower.

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Then your parents pick you up?

2 A My sister actually came.

3 Q Okay. Actually picked you up, your sister. Did you go out the front of the hotel or

4 out the back?

5 A The front, oh, like right where the valet, that's what it's called, valet.

6 Q Now, at that point, did you know that something happened to Robert?

7 A Well, I mean, yeah, that's when they said uh, when we were in a room, uh, Jessie

8 was like he flatlined but that's when uh, he said he was okay.

9 Q Um hum.

10 A So at that time I left so at that, but when I left, I left with thinking that he was still

11 alive, I mean, that nothing was wrong with him. I didn't find out like all of this until

12 like 3 a.m. Like and calls like every almost every day to then.

13 Q So you hung out with family till about 3 in the morning?

14 A Oh no, everybody was sleep. I was just by myself. I had taken, I had taken

15 my mom's phone and I had switched the sim cards, that how it got the calls.

16 Q Oh, so you're checking voice messages?

17 A No, uh, Evan had called me like after I put my sim card in his phone, I mean, my

18 mom's phone. Evan had called me and I, she had his number saved too, so

19 that's how I know who it was. But that's when I talked to him about it.

20 Q What did Evan tell you at that point? (Inaudible)

21 A Evan told me, uh, he was like people were in the ale house. They were saying

22 that he had died and then he called me, he was like, he wasn't sure though. He

23 was on the way to the hotel with his parents I believe. By the time he got to the

24 hotel, that's when he called me final and he said that they were saying that

25 Robert was dead.

1 Q Let me ask you, 'cause you been on the band for 2 years, Dr. White. I mean,
2 does he condone hazing or is he 100 percent against it?
3 A He's 100 percent against it. I can honestly say that.
4 Q In priority in each one of your trips with the band, do they go over anything
5 pertaining to hazing or rules, regulations, or do you get a sheet you're supposed
6 to read as (inaudible).
7 A I mean, well, no, at the, at the beginning of the year, uh, we have conv, we have
8 usually have a meeting about it with the upper classmen.
9 Q Um hum.
10 A First they meet with the freshman and then the upper classmen. They come,
11 that's the first time everybody meets each other at the beginning of the year
12 (inaudible). And we usually talk about hazing and I mean, even throughout the
13 year, Dr. White always says like if you do it, he gonna call your scholarship, he
14 gonna kick you out the band.
15 Q Has he done that before the activity?
16 A Yes sir. He had kicked almost 30 plus people out prior to that week of the
17 Classic.
18 Q And before this game, did he have any documenta, paperwork or anything that
19 said listen, if you get involved in this, you're gone?
20 A Well, I mean, that's, that's the...
21 Q That's the form?
22 A The first meeting, yes sir.
23 Q But it doesn't happen every game?
24 A No sir.

25

1 Q Okay. Do you, did you understand what hazing was before you got on that bus?
2 You know, I'm not trying to paint you in a corner, but you understand...

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q The severity of getting involved in, in, in...

5 A Uh, yeah, yeah, yes sir.

6 Q I mean, I'm not and trust me I'm not gonna ask you lot about that, I don't want to
7 paint you in a corner, but the, the Dr. White would not have condoned that.

8 A No sir.

9 Q If he known that was going on in the bus what would happen?

10 A He probably would kick us all out for everybody that, that, I mean, even, seeing it
11 or the who was there that didn't participate, I'd say he'd kick us all out.

12 Q What about, what about...

13 A Yes.

14 Q What about Dr. Jones? And the chaperone or?

15 A James.

16 Q James?

17 A Oh yeah, Dr. James. I mean he doesn't condone it either. He talked to us uh, he
18 usually talk to us about it too. I mean, usually if, if, if Dr. White is, I mean, Dr.
19 James is aware of hazing, he would report it to Dr. White.

20 Q What about the bus driver? Do they know that it's going on?

21 A Well, I mean, I can't be honestly sure, but ...

22 Q Were you involved when she was hazed?

23 A She was hazed? The bus driver? No. I never seen it.

24 Q You ever hear of it?

25 A No.

1 Q You sure?

2 A Well, I mean, what, this year? I mean, I heard about things in the past that, that

3 have happened with bus drivers but I mean, far as like actually seeing it or

4 knowing that it just happened or something, no.

5 Q (Inaudible)...not, no, no personnel involvement.

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q You've heard it's happened.

8 A But I've, I've heard it, yes sir.

9 Q Is there anything? Did, did, how, how, well did you know Mr. Champion?

10 A Well, I mean, uh,...

11 Q I know he...

12 A I would say like, he, I mean, even if you didn't know him, but to be in the band

13 with him.

14 Q Um hum.

15 A Like he, he, he was just a cool person like he would be cool with everybody. Like

16 even he worked in the Cav, so like even he see you in the Cav, he'd say what's

17 up to you, or he'd ask you how you, how you doing or something but I mean he's

18 a cool person. He's cool to everybody in the band.

19 Q Is there anybody that was on that bus that night that went hands on or assisted

20 that you can...who, who, who can positively say was on that bus with those 3

21 people being, going through the uh, cross over that night?

22 A I mean, besides the people that I mentioned.

23 Q Besides the people, besides Lissette, well, we know Lissette, Keon was on there.

24 Evan was on there. Bascomb was on there. (inaudible).

25

1 A Well, I mean Evan wasn't... Calhoun wasn't on there. He was with his parents at
2 the time when, when all this happened.

3 Q Okay. I'll talk to him about that.

4 A Okay.

5 Q So he wasn't on there?

6 A No sir.

7 Q Okay, who, so you have (inaudible) on the bus?

8 A Uh, Caleb, yes sir.

9 Q Caleb. Bascomb?

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q Lissette?

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q Hollis? And of course Chapman. Champion.

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q Who else was on there? Rucker?

16 A Yes. Uh...

17 Q Green?

18 A Green, Jamal, yes.

19 Q Who else? And now at that point, they went through the night before right?

20 A Oh yes sir.

21 Q So they were, they went through on the 18th, Green and Rucker.

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Were they participating the next night?

24 A Well, I know, I know, uh, Jamon, he was in, like he was like in the back from like
25 even the start.

1 Q Okay.

2 A So, I know that he was, he was in the back, but so, I can't say that I saw him

3 participate in it.

4 Q He was back there when they went through.

5 A Yes sir.

6 Q Okay. What about Green?

7 A No, that's who I'm talking, that's who I was talking, Green.

8 Q Green was back there.

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q What about Rocker?

11 A Oh, Rocker. I want to say he was in the back too.

12 Q Okay, so we got Rocker, Green in the back. Jackson, Bascomb, yourself, up at

13 the front.

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q Champion, Hollis, Lissette. Champion, Hollis and Lissette of course, are going

16 through.

17 A Well, yeah. I mean, it's, it's one by one.

18 Q Crossing over. Right.

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Who else was, who else do you remember being on the bus?

21 A Uh, I think everybody on the, I think everybody was on the list the actual bus list

22 was there except Calhoun and I, I mean, I could tell you the people who I, I

23 thought left. Who were, that said they wasn't coming back. Uh, Jamon Scott.

24 Q Well, how many? Let's, let's go to the 3, the 3 that went through. If you looked

25 around the bus, who was, all I want to do is by process of elimination on face on

1 somewhere else. But when you're on the bus, before you exited that bus, um,
2 when Champion was going through. Who did you remember that was on the bus
3 at that time?

4 A Um, I remember seeing uh, oh, uh, I know the drum majors were there.

5 Q And who was that?

6 A Uh, I don't really know their last names. I just know most of their first name.

7 Q What's their first names?

8 A Uh, Shawn, Jonathan...

9 Q (Inaudible)...Jonathan Boise?

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q You said Shawn?

12 A Yes.

13 Q So Jonathan Boise you remember there. Shawn Johnson?

14 A No, trying to, uh, I, yeah, Turner's his last name.

15 Q Turner?

16 A But with Jonathan, I mean I, I saw them get on like.

17 Q Shawn Turner was on there?

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q Did you see them involved in any of it?

20 A No sir. I mean, usually if you like really participate, you'll, you'll be in the back of
21 the bus.

22 Q Okay, were these guys in the back?

23 A I would say yes.

24 Q Okay, who else was on there?

25

1 A Um, (inaudible) um, I mean it would be easy for me to hear names, to, to actually
2 saw yes or no or?
3 Q What about Darryl Cornell?
4 A I believe so, yes sir.
5 Q Did you see him in the back?
6 A I, I didn't see him in the back.
7 Q Was he on the bus through?
8 A Yes.
9 Q Sitting near the front, I mean?
10 A I mean, yeah, that's what I was saying. Uh, with that, well yeah, he was in the
11 front, I would say yes.
12 Q Well, did you see him pushing or pulling at any time?
13 A No, I didn't.
14 Q Were there any females on that bus?
15 A Besides Lissette?
16 Q Yeah.
17 A Uh, I believe to.
18 Q What about Lasharrie Cox?
19 A Hate her, uh, I want to say, I mean but ...
20 Q If you're not sure ...(inaudible).
21 A I wanna say, yeah, I mean but yeah, that's when I would really say I don't
22 remember.
23 Q Brian Dean?
24 A Yes sir.
25 Q Was he on the bus?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q How close was he to you?

3 A I would say maybe liked middle.

4 Q Did you remember seeing him at all when anybody was going through?

5 A No.

6 Q But he's definitely on the bus, the 3?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q What about Jerrod Dease?

9 A Well, yeah, yes one of the names.

10 Q Um, and you're (inaudible)...older, right?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q You look different (inaudible)...actually you got the same jersey on.

13 A Yeah, jacket, you (inaudible).

14 Q Okay. Aaron Golson we talked about him?

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q He was on there. And Jamon Green on there?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q And is Adrian his brother? Or there two different Greens?

19 A Oh, no, I think they uh, I think they're, they're two different.

20 Q But were they both on there?

21 A Adrian, I don't think he was.

22 Q Okay. But Jamon was?

23 A Oh yes.

24 (Bell ringing)

25 A School.

1 Q What was Keon Hollis?
2 A Well, uh yes, I mean your...
3 Q He's there.
4 A Yes sir.
5 Q What about C.J.?
6 A C.J., that's uh, that's Caleb.
7 Q Caleb?
8 A Yeah.
9 Q And you definitely saw him on the bus? Shawn Johnson?
10 A I really don't know who that is?
11 Q Okay. Brian Jones.
12 A I guess.
13 Q He was on there?
14 A Yeah.
15 Q Did you see any of those people striking or pushing or pulling or hitting or...
16 Jeffrey Manning?
17 A Oh, no, he wasn't there.
18 Q Okay.
19 A I don't even think he came on the trip with us.
20 Q Dante Martin?
21 A Oh yeah.
22 Q When you say oh, yeah, what does that mean?
23 A No, I say oh, yeah like yeah I remember, yeah.
24 Q Okay. What, what, is he the leader. I mean is he the president of the bus?
25 Who's the leader of the bus?

1 A I mean, I want, I want to say that he's the leader, uh, anything.
2 Q Is he an elder or something?
3 A Excuse me?
4 Q Is he like an elder or something?
5 A Oh yeah, because he, he's the, been here the longest.
6 Q Did you see him at any time pushing or pulling or helping?
7 A Honestly no sir.
8 Q Okay. But he had been in the back of the bus.
9 A Yeah, probably.
10 Q How about Henry Nesbitt?
11 A Uh,...
12 Q Snack?
13 A Yeah, I believe he was.
14 Q Snacks was on the bus?
15 A Yeah.
16 Q Was he up near you or in the back?
17 A I think he was in the front?
18 Q Did you see him at all?
19 A I think I remember him being in the front when I did see him.
20 Q Was he pushing, pulling, helping, hitting?
21 A I would say just probably just watching. I mean, knowing like actually, like seeing
22 it before even with like hot seats, I know he, he usually just sits in his seat.
23 Q You said Rocker was on there.
24 A Yes.
25

1 Q Is there anything that you can think of that I haven't talked to you about. That
2 you think would be important and I need, that I need to know to try to clear this
3 thing up. I mean, is there any, I, I, just don't want, I always leave that last
4 question because I want some skeleton to come out and grab us all at the end of
5 this thing.

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q Where, you know, I talk to somebody else and they say well, we were there and,
8 and uh, Harold pushed all the way through and I was the one whacked him with a
9 hammer and he was all the way to the back. I mean, I just don't need that, you
10 know what I mean?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q I mean, is there anything that you like to change, add or you think could be
13 important to the investigation that I've not talked to you about?

14 A Uh.

15 Q Or is there anything you want to clarify?

16 A I mean, I pretty much told you all that I know, to be honest.

17 Q Okay. And everything that you told me has been the truth.

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q The whole truth and nothing but the truth. And would you testify about it again if
20 you need be?

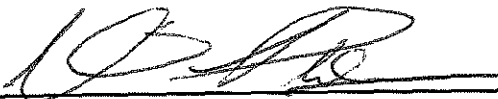
21 A Yes sir.

22 Q Okay. This time I'll conclude the interview. It's still December 7, 2011. It's now
23 approximately 1745 hours.
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THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.



Detective David Phelan, OCSO



Florida *The Sunshine State*
IDENTIFICATION CARD
G120-806-75-522-G
TOWANDA F GIBBS
5460 LIMELIGHT CIR 6
ORLANDO, FL 32839-0000
DOB: 01-22-1975 SEX: F HGT: 5-07
ISSUED: 08-01-2008
EXPIRES: 01-22-2013

Towanda Gibbs

G100806010005

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JERMAINE SCOTT**

2 **CONDUCTED BY Corporal Mike Segreaves**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **This is uh Corporal Mike Segreaves and I am at the uh Florida A&M Police station.**
7 **Today's date is Wednesday, December 7th; the time by my clock is approximately**
8 **1329 hours or 1:29 p.m. I am currently present with FDLE Special Agent...**
9
10

11 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

12 Q Jeff Dunkin.

13 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

14 Q And Mr. ...

15 A Jermaine Scott.

16 Q Mr. Scott what's your date of birth?

17 A Uh December 27th, 1990.

18 Q Okay. Before I go any further let me just say that uh, um we asked you to came
19 down here, I appreciate you coming down, um you are not obviously under
20 arrest. You're, you're free to go at any time you want.

21 A Okay.

22 Q This is a completely voluntarily statement, we're asking you um but if any time
23 you don't wanna make it you just say hey I'm done and get up and walk out.

24 A Alright.
25

1 Q Um so with that being said you see that we're both law enforcement officers and
2 we're recording this conversation and we just wanted you to come down, we're
3 just trying to get down to the facts of really what happen.

4 A Un huh (Affirmative)

5 Q And your name came up and I'll let uh Jeff go ahead and tell you...

6 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

7 Q Yeah just a long, long story short, to be able to do a thorough investigation on
8 Mr. Champion's passing we have to look at all aspects.

9 A Un huh (Affirmative)

10 Q There's several list of who was on the bus, who what'n on the bus, who may
11 have been on the bus at the time of events. Um but historically hazing type
12 events have occurred, there's a hierarchy, all this other stuff. So we gotta, we
13 have to talk to everybody that's been on "Bus C"...

14 A Okay.

15 Q ...or participated. I'm not, nobody's said that you've participated, you're involved
16 but you are on the bus list.

17 A Right.

18 Q So we just need to clarify that if you were, we have some questions about that, if
19 you weren't no big deal. Granted we've talked to about 40 plus people...

20 A Un huh (Affirmative)

21 Q ...so we gotta a good judge of who is and who isn't...

22 A Right.

23 Q ...on the bus. So the only thing that really gets you in trouble in any type of
24 statement with law enforcement, and I don't know if you've ever dealt with us
25

1 before, uh with law enforcement but the only thing that really gets you in trouble
2 is if it's a false truth...

3 A Okay.

4 Q ...that you tell us. You know tell us basically a lie.

5 A Right.

6 Q That jams you up in a perjury deal. Right now like we said you're suspect of any
7 investigation...

8 A Un huh (Affirmative)

9 Q ...uh you're not being charged with anything, it's a voluntary statement, that's for
10 us to get the facts that we need...

11 A Right.

12 Q ...to be about to paint the big picture.

13 A Right.

14 Q Um are you on the band itself?

15 A Am I on the band, yeah I'm in the band.

16 Q FAMU band.

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you're in a...

19 A Yes.

20 Q ...currently enrolled as a student out here at the campus?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you have a position, I mean are you a drum major...

23 A Uh rank sergeant.

24 Q A what?

25 A A right rank sergeant.

1 Q Right rank sergeant.
2 A Yes.
3 Q And what, what's that about?
4 A Uh it's just pretty much the um, the leader of, oh I, I play bass drum.
5 Q Okay.
6 A So I'm pretty much the leader of the bass drums, I, I, I assist in teaching uh the
7 bass drums the parts, uh just make sure the bass drums are just you know uh in
8 line with everything.
9 Q Right.
10 A With the band.
11 Q You've got hair since the last picture I got of you.
12 A Yeah, yeah, yeah.
13 Q (Laughter) alright the uh, what year are you in in school here?
14 A I'm, I'm in my 3rd year.
15 Q Okay so you got a year, year or two left?
16 A Yeah, yeah.
17 Q Okay. Let me ask you were you um; did you attend The Classic game this year?
18 A Yes.
19 Q Okay and were you assigned to "Bus C"?
20 A Yes.
21 Q Did you ride from Tallahassee to Orlando on "Bus C"?
22 A Yes.
23 Q Okay. Who, what is the, I mean is there a hierarchy on that bus or what's, is it
24 the percussion, what's, what's the deal with the bus?
25 A I mean...

1 Q Or is it the...

2 A ...the thing with the bus is that it's a percussion upper classman bus.

3 Q Okay.

4 A So the freshman don't ride, the freshmen, the percussion freshmen don't ride

5 "Bus C".

6 Q Okay.

7 A Uh and so as a percussion or upper classman I'm uh, I, I ride "Bus C". Uh so I

8 mean in terms, I don't understand what you mean by hierarchy.

9 Q I mean is there like you gotta be senior and ...

10 A No, I mean the only hierarchy I know is of, is that Doc James, I mean he's, I

11 mean he's our, our uh...

12 Q He's ...

13 A ...percus, I man percussion director.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And so that's really the only hierarchy.

16 Q Now let me ask you, the trip to Orland, are, are you familiar with any type of uh

17 events called the hot seat or cross over?

18 A Um I'm familiar with the hot seat but in all honesty uh I mean I sit near the front of

19 the bus and the majority of the time that I'm on the bus I'm usually sleeping or

20 listening to music. And so in terms of uh details of a hot seat, uh I'm not really

21 too familiar of it but I mean I, yes I mean I have heard of it, yes.

22 Q Have you seen it in the past?

23 A No I haven't, I haven't witnessed anything of, of a, I don't, no I haven't.

24 Q Have you ever participated in one?

25 A No.

1 Q Been, no. Being part of percussion section, I mean who, who on that bus say
2 have you were gonna cross over, you've heard about it so you know what it's
3 about...

4 A Un huh (Affirmative)

5 Q ...but you haven't done it. But who would direct that on the bus?

6 A Like I said because I, because I'm, because I really don't know, because, like I
7 said the, the only hierarchy I know of is Dr. James. So anybody else I, I don't
8 know who goes or who goes about making these decisions.

9 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

10 A Uh yeah I, I just don't know who goes about making these decisions of, of
11 crossing over.

12 Q Is there, is like a two separate sections on that bus, a group that's been through
13 it, they hang out together, they do their thing and then a group that doesn't do it
14 or how does that work? Cause I mean it's obvious we know that there's a
15 section of individuals or a group of individuals that there's a president who directs
16 it's your turn to go through, you either wanna go through or you don't but if you
17 go through the hot seat occurs ...

18 A Un huh (Affirmative)

19 Q ...could be whatever then you do your crossing over and then you're good.

20 A Okay.

21 Q You know you're part of the band. We know that's occur um I guess the key with
22 you would be do you have any knowledge of who that leader is?

23 A No.

24 Q We just, we're confirming the information that we already know.

25 A Un huh (Affirmative)

1 Q Um but, so if, if you don't know you don't but you, you don't know who that
2 person ...

3 A No.

4 Q ...I mean nobody's ever come up to you and tapped you on the shoulder and
5 said, and, and said Jermaine I mean it's your time man?

6 A Nah, nah not, I mean like I said I mean "Bus C" is for upper classman percussion
7 and I'm the upper classman percussion and so I, I ride the bus. But no one has
8 ever, nah no one has ever come up to me or touched me on the shoulder uh and
9 told me it's my time to go, no.

10 Q So you became a upper classman without being crossed over...

11 A Yeah, yeah I was never, yeah I was never touched on that bus.

12 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

13 Q Did anybody ask you to ever participate in any?

14 A Un no, no, and if they did I wouldn't have, I wouldn't have participated in it
15 because I mean first of all I mean the, I mean that's just not my, that's just not my
16 thing to be honest. Like I said I sit in the front of the bus, I mean not in the front
17 but near that front of the bus, you know and uh I, I kinda just keep to myself to be
18 honest, like I really just keep to myself.

19 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

20 Q Let me ask you, once you guys take the trip on the 18th down here to Orlando or
21 down to Orlando um did you participate in anything on Friday evening?

22 A Friday, no.

23 Q Did they have an event Friday evening at the Amway Center?

24 A At, in terms, a band event?

25 Q Yeah.

1 A Like a performance? Oh yeah, yeah we had a battle of the bands.

2 Q Okay. On your way back from the battle of the bands did you know of or hear of
3 or see any type of event occurring on the back of the bus?

4 A No, no. Because when, when I, whenever I, whenever we get to the hotel and,
5 and I mean I have people that can vouch for me, when we get to the hotel I go to
6 my, I go to my hotel room. And so whatever happens on the bus after that I, I
7 really...

8 (Phone ringing)

9 A ...I really don't know.

10 Q Who's your roommate down there ...

11 A Uh Jelani Marks.

12 Q Jelani Marks.

13 A And, Jelani Marks and uh Thaddeus Stegall.

14 Q What are, are they percussion?

15 A Uh yes. Uh Thaddeus Stegall he rides uh, he rides bus A.

16 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

17 Q Just out of curiosity why does he ride bus A?

18 A Uh he's one of the uh officers, the band officers, the uh, he's a band chaplain and
19 so all the band officers ride bus A. So all the section leaders uh, well the, you
20 know the majority of the section leaders, uh whatever band, like the president of
21 the band, vice president, they all ride bus A along with uh Dr. White.

22 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

23 Q Have you talked to Jelani? I know he came in and provided us with an interview
24 earlier. Did you talk to him about the interview that he was giving?

25 A Uh as far as I know Jelani, this is, Jelani's outside with me.

1 Q Where?

2 A And uh he's, um I wasn't aware that he had a interview.

3 Q Okay.

4 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

5 Q So back to that Friday evening with the battle of the bands...

6 A Un huh (Affirmative)

7 Q ...you, you guys are there in Orlando and you're, you specifically do not see
8 anything occur?

9 A No, the look here like I say...

10 Q Did you hear of anybody talking about anything later?

11 A No I mean, no like I said I, I, I sit near the front so for, I mean I don't know what
12 goes on behind, you know, you know if anything. I don't know, I don't know what
13 the, what's going on behind me and like I say when we get to the hotel I leave.
14 So.

15 Q How 'bout uh Saturday night?

16 A Saturday night we got to the hotel and uh Jelani and myself, we went to...

17 Q Well let's, let's back up, let's start from going to the game.

18 A Oh okay.

19 Q Can you tell me about that?

20 A Going to the game uh...

21 Q Did you ride bus...

22 A Yeah I ride, I ride "Bus C", I rode "Bus C". Uh nothing that I can recall happen on
23 the way there. Um we got to the game, we performed, uh on the way back, on,
24 on the way back nothing, I, I, you know I didn't witness anything that was
25 occurring, I didn't hear anything that was occurring and uh when we got to the

1 hotel I left with Jelani which was my roommate. Uh we went to the hotel, our
2 hotel room and uh about 10 to 15 minutes later uh one of our other percussion uh
3 friends, Jordan Rochester, he met us in our room. Uh and around the same time
4 actually Thaddeus Stegall, which is our other roommate, came into our room.

5 Q So is Jordan one of your roommates also?

6 A No, no, no he just came...

7 Q Okay.

8 A ...just came over.

9 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

10 Q Let me take you back. Since you're sergeant of right rank sergeant...

11 A Un huh (Affirmative)

12 Q ...and all that, was there anybody when you got to the game that couldn't
13 perform of the field because they were sick?

14 A No not um, not because, not that, not in the bass drums, not that I know, not in
15 the bass drums.

16 Q Let me, anybody in the percussion section off your bus that was sick that couldn't
17 perform, that told maybe the doctor that they couldn't perform?

18 A I, I think uh, I think there was one girl right, right, right before the actual game on
19 Saturday that said uh, I think, I don't know if she was, was lightheaded or
20 something but when I, when I saw 'bout to get my drum to go warm up with the
21 section I saw her sitting down with Dr. James. And so I asked, and I, I observed
22 she wasn't feeling well, I don't know if she had a headache or, I just told she
23 wasn't feeling well, that's the only thing that I, that's what I can recall.

24 Q Did you know that she had been through the hot seat or...

25 A No I didn't, no.

1 (CORPORAL SEGREAVES)

2 Q Do, do you know who that person was, do you know her name?

3 A Yeah her name is uh Requesta, I'm not sure of her last name though.

4 Q And this was Saturday before the game but at the Citrus...

5 A Yeah this was at, yeah it's at the stadium. Yeah we were, we were about to go
6 warm up. Uh or the section was about to go warm up.

7 Q Did you ever hear why she wasn't gonna be marching, she didn't feel well or
8 anything like that?

9 A No, no, I mean I just asked you know what's, what's wrong with Requesta and
10 she, they just said you know she's not feeling good.

11 (AGENT DUNKIN)

12 Q Okay. You knew, so you didn't see her involved in anything just observed her
13 talking to the doc.

14 A Yeah, well yeah, yeah. I mean she wasn't really talking she was just sitting down
15 and I think, she could have been drinking some water uh she could have been
16 eating something; maybe to put something in her stomach, I'm not sure. But uh,
17 I mean she wasn't, she wasn't having a conversation with Dr. James when I saw
18 them at least.

19 Q Okay. You guys go out, perform during halftime or whatever you do, the games
20 over, get back on the bus, did you hear any dis, did you sit in the same spot that
21 you started in?

22 A Yeah, yeah.

23 Q Did you hear any discussion in reference anybody doing any crossing over or
24 going back to the bus after you got back to the hotel?

25 A No, no.

1 Q When you get back to the hotel did you go to your room?
2 A Yeah.
3 Q Was there any knowledge that you had that the bus would be open...
4 A No.
5 Q ...for the purpose of getting your property and drums and all that ...
6 A Oh no, no, no, our, our drums are uh on this other truck.
7 Q So they're locked down.
8 A It's like a separate, yeah, the separate truck.
9 Q What's the procedure for the bus once you got back to the hotel? Is it locked or
10 is if left...
11 A Uh...
12 Q ...unlocked or do they tell you to get all your personal property off there or what?
13 A I do know that um I, I'm not sure, I'm not sure for sure if all the buses are locked
14 but I do know in a, in a previous game earlier in the season we had a incident
15 where I guess one of the buses had got broken into and some of the band
16 members got their stuff stolen.
17 Q Un huh (Affirmative)
18 A So with that I mean I don't wanna say that the buses are left open but I mean I
19 just know of that incident, I don't know what, I don't know if they were open or
20 locked.
21 Q So you don't know, that night...
22 A No.
23 Q ...there what'n nobody said the bus would be open for the next hour?
24 A No. No.
25

1 (CORPORAL SEGREAVES)

2 Q Where was that incident the bus got broken into?

3 A South Carolina. South Carolina.

4 Q Did you ever hear of anything going on in South Carolina when you were up
5 there?

6 A No the thing, the thing with South Carolina was it was after the game and we
7 were, we all were, we all were coming back to our buses and then we just heard
8 that uh, that one of the, one of the buses got broken into, I can't, I can't recall the,
9 the bus. But one of the buses got broken into and a lot of uh students, not a lot,
10 maybe a couple, like 3 or 4 got their personal property taken. I got the
11 backpacks and stuff so. but I think they, you know I think they filed a report, I,
12 you know that was at, at South Carolina at the time. So.

13 (AGENT DUNKIN)

14 Q So you have no knowledge that the bus (stuttering), you end up going to your
15 room with your roommate?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q And what did you do once you got to your room?

18 A Uh we were just hanging out just talking about the game and the like I said about
19 10 minutes later the, uh Jordan showed up. And uh a little bit shorter after that
20 Thaddeus showed up.

21 Q Did either one of them talk about ...

22 A No, no, no.

23 Q ...anything going on...

24 A No cause all, me, my, I'm sorry, Jordan, Jelani and myself, we all left at the same
25 time.

1 Q Right.

2 A However Jordan went to his room first and then he came to our room so.

3 Q What time did you, were you notified or did you know something had happened
4 on the bus?

5 A Um we were actually about to go eat, uh Jelani and myself and Jordan, we were
6 about to go eat uh and we were leaving our rooms and as soon as we stepped
7 out of the room someone came up and was like "Did you hear about Robert", I'm
8 like "No, uh no". And they were like "Yeah", they, they were saying he was
9 having trouble breathing and he's throwing up. I said oh okay and so we, I mean
10 we didn't really, we didn't really know what to think of it.

11 Q Who, who is that that you're talking to?

12 A Uh Jordan actually, we, we stepped out of our room and Jordan was uh, cause
13 after Jordan, cause Jordan left uh to go take a shower.

14 Q Right.

15 A Uh and when he, when he was coming back we were walking out of the, of our
16 room to all link up and go get something to eat.

17 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

18 A And when we were coming out he came to us just like you know "Did you hear
19 about Robert" and I don't know how he heard, I don't know how he heard about
20 Robert but he's like "Did you hear about Robert", you know what's going on with
21 Robert, I'm like "No, I don't know". He said you know he's, you know I heard he's
22 throwing up, I heard he's uh having trouble breathing, okay and so we, I mean
23 we didn't, we didn't know what to think of it so we just...

24 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

25 Q What time was that?

1 A I really can't, I really can't recall. I mean I really can't recall. I really, no I can't
2 recall.

3 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

4 Q Before midnight?

5 A Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, it was definitely before midnight.

6 Q You guys have a curfew?

7 A Uh sometimes they, they definitely sir, they definitely set curfew, sometimes it
8 might be like 11, uh that night though I don't think there was a curfew that night.

9 Q Okay. So Robert came up and said something had happened?

10 A No not Robert, Jordan.

11 Q Jordan.

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Said something happened to Robert?

14 A Yeah well he said, he said, he asked if we heard about what happen and we said
15 "No" and then he heard...

16 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

17 Q And who, who do you say that to I'm sorry you, it was you...

18 A He was talking to me and Jelani.

19 Q Who would he have heard it from do you think? Who was he hanging with most
20 of time?

21 A Uh I, I don't know, I, I really have, I, I don't know his roommates, I don't know, I
22 mean I, I really don't know. I mean he, like he doesn't, he's not even a student at
23 FAMU, he goes to FSU. So I mean it's not really, I, I'm not really a close, close
24 friend with him.

1 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

2 Q How is he in the band when he's not even at the school?

3 A Some uh, some, some, some FSU students and TCC students are allowed to
4 march uh at FAMU's band.

5 Q And why is that?

6 A Uh I'm not sure the reason, uh I guess it's, I, I really don't know why.

7 Q So he tell you something happened to Robert?

8 A Well he asked me if I heard what happen, he didn't tell me something happen.

9 Q Right.

10 A And so when he asked me, he asked us, we was just like no we haven't heard
11 and he said he heard that Robert was throwing up and having trouble breathing.

12 But we didn't know why or how, how this all developed and so like I say we just
13 didn't really think anything of it at the time and then we went on, we went on to
14 dinner. And it wasn't until we were at dinner, at the Ale House where uh we
15 started just getting text messages talking about you know something really wrong
16 with Robert, he had to go to the hospital, you know and, and it, it was at that time
17 where a lot of the rumors started developing uh about, about his, about his
18 passing.

19 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

20 Q What kind of rumors were they?

21 A Of, of, rumors about his passing.

22 Q Just him passing...

23 A Yeah like...

24 Q ...they didn't say how they think he passed?

25 A Well no I got a, no, no I uh...

1 Q Think it was caused by something or...

2 A Nah we just heard that uh, I'm sorry, sorry. Uh we just heard that uh, we just
3 heard that Robert had died. We just heard that Robert had died.

4 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

5 Q You didn't get any (stuttering) and be honest with, I mean we've already pulled
6 everybody's text messages and all that good stuff, I mean is there any text
7 messages and I know you; you're saying rumors because nobody really knows
8 what happen. But was there any text messages came across anybody's phone
9 there that ...

10 A Yeah.

11 Q ...stated that there was a hazing or...

12 A Oh, oh I don't know, nah...

13 Q ...that they, they had uh, he passed during a crossing through or...

14 A The only, the only text message that I'm aware of is uh we were at dinner at the
15 Ale House, myself, Jelani and Jordan and Jelani got a text saying that uh, that
16 Robert had died or said, he said supposedly Robert had died and he showed it to
17 me. And we were just, we were just confused, we just didn't understand what,
18 what was going on. Like how all this was developing. And it wasn't until later on
19 the next day where we, where we found out that it had to do something with
20 some hazing. And so, but I mean like I said we, I can't tell you what happen you
21 know cause I wasn't there so.

22 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

23 Q Can we get uh some of your current info real quick Jermaine just to make sure
24 that we have it all? Can I start with; do you have an address here?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Can I get your address here?

2 A Um 222 Palmetto Street. And just out of curiosity what's the uh, the information

3 for? This, this, this information.

4 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

5 Q This right here?

6 A No the uh...

7 Q What he's asking you?

8 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

9 Q (Inaudible) in case we need to...

10 A Yeah.

11 Q ...come back and talk to you.

12 A Okay, okay.

13 Q I mean...

14 A Yeah I was, okay I was just asking.

15 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

16 Q 222...

17 A Palmetto Street.

18 Q Okay.

19 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

20 Q I mean there are students are scattered all over...

21 A Right, yeah, yeah, yeah.

22 Q ...some come back, some don't, some...

23 A Okay.

24 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

25 Q Where's that at?

1 A Where, oh it's actually right on campus, actually it's uh right across the street
2 from Palmetto North Apartments.

3 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

4 Q What's the zip?

5 A 32301.

6 Q Is that an apartment you live in or just...

7 A No it's, it's a house right next to uh University Apartments actually.

8 Q How 'bout a, another address, like a home address if you weren't here at school?

9 A Uh if I'm not here at school I'm in Palm Beach County, 103 Nature's Way. That's
10 Royal Palm Beach. 33411.

11 Q Royal Palm Beach?

12 A Yes sir.

13 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

14 Q 33041?

15 A No 33411.

16 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

17 Q And then how 'bout a, a cell for you?

18 A 5 6 1 3 1 0 0 8 0 1.

19 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

20 Q You raise your right, go ahead. Raise your right hand for us. You swear that
21 everything that you've stated here to us is the fact, true, the whole truth?

22 A Yes I do.

23 Q Okay and at any point if we needed it uh for any type of follow up or further
24 testimony that uh you'd be able to provide that to us to be consistent with the
25 statement that you've provided?

1 A Yes.


2 Q Okay.

3 (CORPORAL SEGREAVES)

4 Q Alright I'm gonna conclude this interview; the time by my watch is approximately
5 1350 hours.

6
7
8
9 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

10 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

11
12 
13 _____
14 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW GOLSON AARON**
2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE CHIOTA**
3 **CASE 11-101832**
4

5 **Okay today is ah, November 29th, 2011, is approximately 9:58 and we**
6 **are having and interview with Aaron, Golson. This is Detective**
7 **Chiota and Phelps. Um...**
8

9 **Q. Detective Chiota**

10 **DP. Detective Phelan**

11 **A. Aaron Golson**
12

13 **DP. Phelan.**

14 **Q. Phelan I'm sorry. Um, okay so ah, Aaron you, you rode the bus down**
15 **on C?**

16 **A. Yes.**

17 **Q. Okay did you go... you obv..., obviously went on the field.**

18 **A. Yeah I went on the field.**

19 **Q. Okay. Let me ask you this, I've been hearing this. Did, did ah, ah,**
20 **Robert have a ah, ah an incident (inaudible) he dropped the baton?**

21 **A. I don't think he (inaudible) baton I'm way in the back of the band.**

22 **Q. Yeah, did you see that (over talking)...**

23 **A. (Inaudible...).**

24 **Q. ...I mean?**

25 **A. No (over talking).**

1 Q. Okay so as (inaudible) I'm just trying to check and see..., that's the
2 rumor.
3 A. I didn't see that.
4 Q. Okay so, so you came back on the bus.
5 A. Yeah I came back on the bus, no actually to um, back to the hotel I
6 rode on... um, my friend from um, Orange County, we rode ah (over
7 talking).
8 Q. Oh who's your friend?
9 A. His name is ah, his name ah, (inaudible).
10 Q. How you spell it?
11 A. (Inaudible...) ah C... its spell like Cavalier with like... I don't know
12 how to... like C-H-A-V-A-L-E-R.
13 Q. What's his last name?
14 A. (Inaudible...) Moore.
15 Q. Moore?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. (Inaudible...) M-O-O-R-E?
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. You got a phone number for him (coughing in the background)?
20 A. I think (inaudible...).
21 Q. That's okay. And you rode with him. Anybody else ride with you?
22 A. No, just me and him, we ah, went outside (inaudible) because they
23 had a tent outside the game so we (inaudible).
24 Q. And yo went back to the, the hotel?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. After (inaudible) we left there yeah.

3 Q. Okay. About what time did you get back to the hotel?

4 A. We got back to the hotel around like eight something, I don't

5 remember what time.

6 Q. Okay what is the phone number?

7 A. Okay um, like 813...

8 Q. Uh huh (affirmative)

9 A. Ah (coughing in the background) no 863...

10 Q. 863...

11 A. 241...

12 Q. Uh huh (affirmative)

13 A. 3425.

14 Q. Okay. So you got there about... were the other buses already there?

15 A. I think... yeah everybody was already in the hotel.

16 Q. Okay. So at what time did you get there roughly?

17 A. Around like eight, I don't really... but it was like, it was like around like

18 eight something, it... I'm not, like eight thirty.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Eight thirty something like that.

21 Q. Eight to eight thirty?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Alright.

24 DP. Okay but the buses were already there?

25 A. The buses were there already.

1 DP. Okay.

2 Q. So then what did you do?

3 A. I went to the um... I went to the room, I went to my friend's room to

4 see where he wanted to go eat, he said he wanted to go eat at the

5 Ale House and I went to the Ale House.

6 Q. Who's ah, who's the ah, the friend that, that you went to eat...?

7 A. Ah, I went with ah, a dude name Ryan, Anwaar.

8 Q. Ryan what?

9 A. I don't know Ryan's last name, I think is Overstreet.

10 Q. Overstreet?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Anwaar (over talking...).

14 Q. What room was he in?

15 A. I don't remember.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Ah Anwaar.

18 DP. Wasn't that (inaudible).

19 Q. Ryan Overstreet.

20 A. Anwaar.

21 Q. Anwaar?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You know how to spell it?

24 A. A-N-W-A-A-R.

25 Q. Okay and what's his last name?

1 A. Um, Bonner, B-O-N-N-E-R.
2 Q. Okay what does Ryan play.
3 A. They all play tuba.
4 Q. Tubas?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. Okay. And were Ryan and Anwaar staying together?
7 A. Yeah they stay in the same room.
8 Q. Okay. So you went to get them... did you go to your room first?
9 A. Yeah I went to my room because my (over talking).
10 Q. What room were you in?
11 A. Room ah (background voice).
12 DP. (Inaudible...).
13 Q. Where you (inaudible)?
14 A. Um ah, Ale House, the Ale House.
15 Q. Uh huh (affirmative).
16 A. Right down the Street (over talking).
17 Q. Oh that was ah... (inaudible) Jerrod.
18 A. Yeah I was... yeah he was there too.
19 Q. Okay.
20 A. (Inaudible...) it was Jerrod, the (inaudible).
21 Q. Right. Okay ah okay before... what time did you leave to go to the
22 Ale House?
23 A. We went to Ale House around like... it wasn't even; it wasn't ten yet,
24 so I guess... I, I don't really know.
25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. (Inaudible...).
- 2 Q. Alright so ah, ah, who's, who's the room, the...who was staying with
- 3 you in your room?
- 4 A. My room it was just me, ah, Steve Thorpe.
- 5 Q. Steve Thorpe?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. T-H-O-R-P-E?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. And what does he play?
- 10 A. He plays the snare drum.
- 11 Q. Snare?
- 12 A. Yeah, but...
- 13 Q. And...
- 14 A. ...he didn't play, he didn't play that ah, that weekend because ah, he
- 15 missed some practice, so (over talking).
- 16 Q. But he went anyway?
- 17 A. Yeah they let him go.
- 18 Q. Okay. So what did he do during the game?
- 19 A. He play, he played (inaudible) but he didn't play (inaudible over
- 20 talking).
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Okay. And what room were you in?
- 24 A. Three... (inaudible).
- 25 Q. (Laugh...).

1 A. (Inaudible...) okay ah, 349.
2 Q. Three forty nine?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Okay. So um, what happen between you going up and leaving with
5 them? Now get me straight here okay.
6 A. Yeah (laugh).
7 Q. We're just here to get the facts (inaudible)...
8 A. Alright.
9 Q. ...but don't make the mistake of you know trying to...anticipate (over
10 talking)...
11 A. I see, I, I see what you're saying.
12 Q. ... (inaudible...) don't anticipate because I don't want you getting in
13 trouble for telling us something that aint true.
14 A. Yeah (inaudible over talking).
15 Q. Okay, you know what I'm saying, so don't cover anything.
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. You're not in trouble or anything (over talking)...
18 A. (Inaudible...).
19 Q. ...else like that, right this second, I mean you, you're ready to go back
20 to your class.
21 A. Yeah.
22 Q. But if you lie to me...
23 A. Alright.
24 Q. ...that's going to make it difficult okay, so don't do that.
25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Alright, so ah, because we know certain things...

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. ...alright so. Wha..., what happened um, before you went to the Ale

4 House?

5 A. Ah, the Ale House, I went to the Ale House (inaudible).

6 Q. Okay. Did you go to "bus C"?

7 A. No I didn't go to "Bus C".

8 Q. Okay so somebody is saying that you were on "Bus C" when this

9 happen with Robert.

10 A. Ah, ah (inaudible...) the Ale House, I was (over talking).

11 Q. Okay but that was later.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. This has already happen with Robert.

14 A. I was probably in the hotel in the ah, room (over talking).

15 Q. Well tell me what you were doing?

16 A. Huh?

17 Q. Tell me what you were doing.

18 A. (Inaudible...) Anwaar just sitting around talking about the game.

19 Q. Uh huh (affirmative)

20 A. (Inaudible...).

21 Q. Okay. But what have you, what do you know happened ah, on... with

22 Robert?

23 A. I don't know anything that happened with Robert.

24 Q. Okay.

25

1 A. I don't know, I'm hearing stories about different things and... you
2 know what I'm saying... Robert (inaudible) friend we (inaudible)...

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. ...together.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Well that's why we're doing this.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. We, we're doing this for Robert.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So that's why I, I appreciate your help.

12 A. I, I understand, anything to help (over talking).

13 Q. Okay, so let me tell you this and you tell me what's your impression
14 or what do you know about this ritual or what goes on (over talking).

15 A. I know is a lot of different rituals in the band like, like serious, like
16 honestly true be told, there's a lot different things going in the band
17 but like...

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I know my part, the way my mom (inaudible) is like she told... she'll
20 be down here don't get (inaudible) with no mess.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. Is... I aint going to lie to you, is messy going around (inaudible)
23 school period but like I aint got the time for it, I'm trying to get the
24 degree.

25 Q. I hear you (over talking)...

1 A. (Inaudible...).

2 Q. ...that's, that's good, you're focus, that's good.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But um, Robert got involved in this and you are a friend of his.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Um, had he, had he...what had he told you about, you know getting

7 ready to do this?

8 A. No Robert never, Robert was not that that kind of... like (inaudible)

9 hear (inaudible) Robert is not even that kind of person to do

10 something like that. Like (inaudible over talking...).

11 Q. He (over talking)...

12 A. (Inaudible over talking...).

13 Q. ...he surprises you?

14 A. Is really a surprise because Robert like, like ah, like a man who like

15 no, I'm not with that kind of stuff.

16 Q. Uh huh (affirmative).

17 A. You know what I'm saying. And Robert (inaudible) everybody else

18 so... you know what I'm saying.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So him been on the bus participate in that?

22 A. (Inaudible...) man I'm, I'm shock if that happen.

23 Q. Really?

24

25

1 A. Yeah because Robert is not, like that kind of person. Like if you met
2 Robert he is not, not that kind of person (inaudible) he won't let me in
3 the (inaudible) Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

4 Q. How long you been on the band?

5 A. I only been... this is my second year, I'm a sophomore.

6 Q. Do you um; do you have to do... sign a statement about hazing?

7 A. Yeah we sign one, um, when I first came here to um (inaudible).

8 Q. When was that?

9 A. Um...

10 Q. Was that for this school year?

11 A. No, not this school year, the freshman school year.

12 Q. Freshman.

13 A. Yeah (inaudible over talking).

14 Q. Do you sign one every year?

15 A. No.

16 Q. That's (over talking).

17 A. That one...

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. ... (inaudible...).

20 Q. Has anybody talk to you, did anybody talk to you before hand, before
21 the game...

22 A. About what?

23 Q. ...about hazing or any situation like that, have you ever been, been...

24 A. No I never been in (inaudible over talking).

25 Q. (Inaudible...).

1 A. (Inaudible...) allow myself been (over talking).
2 DP. Do you recall ah, ah, Doctor White and the Chief of Police calling you
3 all out to... having a conversation before the game (over talking)?
4 A. Yeah it was, it was not... it wasn't before the game; it was at ah band
5 practice.
6 DP. Okay and they (over talking)....
7 A. Like (over talking)...
8 DP. ...did they tell you all about hazing?
9 A. They (inaudible) tell us about...
10 DP. Okay.
11 A. ...hazing (inaudible).
12 Q. And when was that?
13 DP. The week of (inaudible).
14 A. Yeah I think the week of ... (inaudible...) ah, because they had kick
15 some people out (inaudible) just stressing it so much, so he had
16 (inaudible...)...
17 Q. Uh huh (affirmative).
18 A. ...like the Chief (inaudible) or something.
19 Q. And did you um... any of those people that, that got kicked out did
20 you know them?
21 A. Um, I knew, I knew (inaudible) because they were in band with me.
22 Q. Um hum (affirmative).
23 A. Um...
24 Q. Did you know that they were... what they are talking about?
25 A. (Inaudible...).

1 Q. When they got kicked out of (inaudible over talking...).
2 A. (Inaudible...) the way they said, they like... when they got kicked out
3 they never came back around the band.
4 Q. Uh huh (affirmative).
5 A. So the only people that came back around the band was some
6 trombones, Ah, I don't play trombone.
7 Q. Were they kicked out of?
8 A. Like they was kicked, like they kicked out, but they still came out
9 there, because they said they didn't do anything, I guess.
10 Q. And they allow them to participate?
11 A. No, they stay like (inaudible) like, like in the parking lot (inaudible).
12 Q. Got you (inaudible).
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. So and in your mind any of the people... was that effective then, the
15 people that...?
16 A. Yeah, like the people who, like they're like that wasn't our plan.
17 Q. Okay, so the... Doctor White and the Chief of Police were able to
18 keep those people out.
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. They didn't come back...
21 A. No they didn't come back (over talking).
22 Q. (Inaudible...) participate in, in the band (over talking)...
23 A. (Inaudible...).
24 Q. ...in the parking lot (inaudible)?
25

1 A. They thought that White would change his mind (inaudible) that White
 2 (over talking).
 3 Q. He stuck to it (Inaudible...).
 4 A. (Inaudible...) different.
 5 Q. Have you heard of anybody who was ah, ah on "Bus C": when this
 6 occurred?
 7 A. Um, no. Like I heard, I, I been hearing like different things, but like I
 8 don't know like the people who they say (inaudible) like was on "Bus
 9 C" I don't know them.
 10 Q. But you rode on "Bus C" (over talking)...
 11 A. Yeah I rode "Bus C" because (over talking).
 12 Q. ...why wouldn't you've been involved in this thing with "Bus C" with
 13 Char..., with ah Robert?
 14 A. Because ah, it was just the bus I ride to go to the game.
 15 Q. Got you.
 16 A. Yeah.
 17 DP. Okay (inaudible) "Bus C" is the bus you ride to the game...
 18 A. Yeah.
 19 DP. ...but "Bus C" is also... when we refer to "Bus C" we're referring to
 20 the ritual type activities that's going after the game.
 21 A. See the thing (over talking)...
 22 Q. Okay.
 23 A. ...I, I, I know... okay the rituals (inaudible) "Bus C" like they tried to
 24 like, like me, I'm a big man, I'm a freshman, but I'm not... like
 25 (inaudible...) still young, I'm like... and "Bus C" is the upper class

1 (inaudible...) but I'm still, I'm, I'm a freshman in the, in the other
2 (inaudible...)...

3 Q. Um hum (affirmative).

4 A. ...so you know what I'm saying they, they (inaudible) no you all not
5 going to mess with me, you understand.

6 DP. Well what we want, what we're asking is what do you know about the
7 ritual on "Bus C"?

8 A. They (over talking).

9 DP. (Inaudible...) stay away (inaudible).

10 A. The ritual on "Bus C" I don't know like, I don't the rituals because I
11 (inaudible over talking...).

12 DP. You (inaudible over talking).

13 A. Yeah (inaudible over talking).

14 DP. You (inaudible over talking).

15 A. Yeah, that, that's the only way (over talking).

16 DP. Okay, but have anybody ask you to participate in a ritual on "Bus C"?

17 A. Like, yeah they, I'm, I'm not going to lie... they had said are you, you
18 want, you want to come back here (inaudible) like no I'm straight
19 (laugh).

20 DP. Uh huh (affirmative).

21 Q. Who's, who ask you that?

22 A. I don't remember it was like, it wasn't even, it wasn't even some
23 people, it wasn't even people in the band, it was like alumni because
24 we have... I remember riding to a game in Atlanta...

25 Q. Uh huh (affirmative).

1 A. ...and like he alumni had came...it was like (inaudible) he was like
2 hey, hey aren't you from (inaudible) he like you're not going to do
3 "Bus C" (inaudible...) no.

4 Q. They, they asked you if you were going to do "Bus C"?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Who's, who's the alumni?

7 A. I don't know, I don't he was just like, you know how (inaudible) people
8 (inaudible...) you never know.

9 Q. Well that, that person that came up and talked to you is, is that, is that
10 somebody that you saw later on?

11 A. No, I never seen him, like it was like big (inaudible) people like
12 (inaudible) a lot of people (over talking).

13 Q. No I got you.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Yeah. Okay.

16 DP. So would you, would I be fair in saying that alumni could be possibly
17 involved in what happens on "Bus C" after (inaudible).

18 A. I don't, I don't think (inaudible) would, you might be, (inaudible) be
19 wrong because you never know. Because like alumni, like games
20 alumni come back to is Atlanta Classic, Florida Classics Home
21 Coming. That's the games like (inaudible over talking).

22 DP. (Inaudible...).

23 A. No, because not a lot of people would travel (inaudible).

24 Q. What about the bus driver of "Bus C"?

25 A. The bus driver Ms. (inaudible).

1 Q. Yeah how long (inaudible) does she always drive "Bus C"?

2 A. No I think she, she drove like Florida (inaudible) and like (inaudible)

3 but we have another dude drive.

4 Q. (Inaudible...) what did, what did the ah, what ah, the bus driver

5 (inaudible) know about what's going on?

6 A. I don't think so.

7 Q. Why wouldn't she know?

8 A. I don't know ah, I don't (inaudible).

9 DP. And were you in (inaudible)?

10 A. (Inaudible...)?

11 DP. Did you go to (inaudible over talking)?

12 A. (Inaudible...).

13 DP. Okay, did ah, were you aware of the bus getting broken into (over

14 talking)?

15 A. Yeah I was aware because ah, my ah... the other um, it's a

16 (inaudible) not a (inaudible) I play (inaudible) music ah (inaudible) is

17 like a small version of (inaudible). There's a dude ah, who I teach ah,

18 (inaudible...) phone, bag (inaudible) but he don't ride "Bus C" he ride

19 bus H.

20 DP. Right that's what I'm saying, but what I'm saying is that at that point

21 wasn't it....do you know (inaudible) that they would've told

22 (inaudible)? Do you all normally lead the bu... do they normally lead

23 the bus (inaudible over talking)?

24 A. (Inaudible...) I don't know.

25 DP. You don't know okay.

1 A. I know they was like (over talking).
2 DP. Are you a hundred percent positive that you never went back around
3 (inaudible...)?
4 A. (Inaudible...).
5 DP. Are you a hundred percent positive I don't have you in video coming
6 through the parking lot going back to Bus (inaudible)...
7 A. You should...
8 DP. ...or leaving "Bus C"?
9 A. ...you should have (inaudible) video.
10 DP. You know the hotel has video all back there in that parking lot?
11 A. I know.
12 DP. Okay. Because that's when he, that's what he warned you about
13 when he said we're asking you questions (inaudible).
14 A. I know.
15 DP. So let me give you one last opportunity to tell us. Were you back
16 there at "Bus C"?
17 A. I wasn't there at "Bus C".
18 DP. Okay. That's your word and that's fine, that's (inaudible over talking).
19 Q. You, you, you swear the statement that you just given me is going to
20 be truth and nothing but the truth?
21 A. Yeah I gave you the truth nothing but the truth (Inaudible...).
22 Q. Okay.
23 A. I don't swear because like (inaudible over talking).
24 Q. No swear...
25 DP. Or affirm.

1 Q. Swear or affirm that that...

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. ...that statement is true and if, if call.... if I ask you to come back and
4 say the exact same thing (inaudible over talking).

5 A. I (inaudible...) anything.

6 Q. Okay, alright, any thing else?

7 DP. (No verbal response...).

8 Q. Okay, we're going to go ahead and ended, it's ah, about ah, 10:12.

9 A. Alright.

10 Q. Thank you Sir.

11
12
13
14 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

15 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

16
17 

18 DETECTIVE Phelan, David OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF ADRIAN GREEN**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **Okay today is Tuesday, November the, December the 6th, 2011; the time is now**
7 **1114 hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County Sheriff's Office**
8 **Criminal Investigation Division, also present is Detective Angelo Chiota Orange**
9 **County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. And present for the**
10 **Florida, Florida Department of Law Enforcement is...**

11
12
13 **(AGENT JEFF DUNKIN)**

14 Q Agent Jeff Dunkin.

15 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

16 Q And we're here at FAMU University uh security police off, po, police department
17 and I'm here speaking with, state your first name for me.

18 A Adrian.

19 Q Adrian uh like I said I'm Detective Phelan, we're, we are investigating the death
20 of Mr. Robert Champion okay.

21 A Okay.

22 Q Um we just had a few questions we wanted to ask you, you understand that this
23 is being recorded, you have a recorder here in front of you is that right?

24 A Un huh (Affirmative)

1 Q Okay. Uh you're not charged with anything, you're free to leave if you want to. If
2 you have a, if you have a question about anything you're free to ask anybody any
3 questions about it before you answer it to us okay.

4 A Okay.

5 Q So uh with that said I'm, I just wanted to ask you a couple of question, you are a
6 part of FAMU band?

7 A Yes sir.

8 Q Okay and are you a part of the percussion section?

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q Okay so that means uh basically you would, to all the games you've ridden that
11 you pa, partic, participated in you've ridden on "Bus C".

12 A Yes sir every since uh my, my second year in the, in the band.

13 Q Okay so uh you uh, the game that was in Orlando the uh Bethune Cookman
14 game back on the 19th uh did you uh participate in that game?

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q And you uh rode "Bus C" to the game?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q And you got up to Orlando that Friday is that correct?

19 A Yes sir.

20 Q Okay. Uh the Friday evening did you have any instance to go back to the bus or
21 be on the bus after you got there that Friday night?

22 A After we got there?

23 Q Yes.

24 A Um ...

1 (AGENT DUNKIN)

2 Q Talking about returning to the hotel.

3 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

4 Q After, yeah.

5 A After returning to the hotel.

6 Q No cause this is Friday.

7 A From...

8 Q Friday y'all, y'all, y'all...

9 A After...

10 Q ...y'all came from, y'all left Tallahassee and went to Orlando to the hotel on
11 Friday right?

12 A Un huh (Affirmative)

13 Q And then did y'all do a practice?

14 A Um no we stayed in the hotel, next time we got back on the bus was to head to
15 the uh, the battle of the bands that was at the Amway Center.

16 Q Okay what time was that?

17 A Um we had to be back on the bus at 7 or 8, it was one, it was somewhere around
18 that time.

19 Q Okay. So then y'all went and did the battle of the bands...

20 A Un huh (Affirmative)

21 Q ...and y'all returned back to the hotel?

22 A Yes sir.

23 Q About what time did y'all get back to the hotel?

24 A I don't know exactly but I'll probably say around maybe like 10, 10:30 ish.

25

1 Q And after you got off the bus around 10:30 did you go to your room or you hung
2 out with other?

3 A Um we had stayed on the bus cause we had did another uh, uh crossing.

4 Q Okay. You know, another crossing.

5 A Huh?

6 Q You did, you were involved in the crossing there?

7 A I was there but, I was there.

8 Q Okay. And who went through then?

9 A Um it was uh Edwin, Jamon and Evan.

10 Q Edwin who?

11 A Rocker.

12 Q Rocker. Jamon Green?

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q And...

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q You, you mentioned three?

17 A And Evan...

18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q Hold up.

20 A Calhoun.

21 Q Ed...

22 A Evan.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q (Inaudible)

25 A Calhoun.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q E, E V, okay. Did, were you there when uh Lissette attempted to go through?

3 A No.

4 Q So the three that went through were, was Edwin Rocker, Jamon Green and Evan
5 Calhoun. Okay all three of these...

6 (Music tone)

7 Q Are all three of these uh percussion members?

8 A Um no.

9 Q Okay who was not a percussion member?

10 A Jamon Green.

11 Q Jamon Green. Okay.

12 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

13 Q I'm sorry what time was this, this was occurring on Friday?

14 A Uh I can't give you...

15 Q Roughly.

16 A ...an exact, like probably around, somewhere in between 10 and 11 probably.

17 Q 10 or 11 p.m.?

18 A Yes sir.

19 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

20 Q Okay. The process itself, explain the process as you've known or have seen it
21 that Friday night.

22 A As far as the crossing is concerned?

23 Q Yeah.

24 A Well the person starts at the front of the bus and they make their way to the back
25 basically.

1 Q Is there a preliminary where they are placed on a hot seat so to say?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay explain that part first.

4 A What, what a hot seat is?

5 Q Yeah.

6 A Um you sit in the seat and you, you lean over with your hands over your neck and

7 they put a blanket on you and they, and they beat you.

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q They put a blanket on your what?

10 A They put a blanket over you.

11 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

12 Q Cover you.

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Over your head?

15 A They cover you with a blanket, yeah.

16 Q Or over your whole body?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Okay.

19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

20 Q Okay so the, the three people that you saw did each one of these three go

21 through the uh, uh hot seat?

22 A No they had already done that; at this point it was just the, the crossing part.

23 Q Crossing over, okay. So do, is it normal or abnormal for one to do the hot seat

24 one day and the crossing the next or is it all at one time, one day?

25 A No it's over a period of time.

1 Q It's over a period of time. So they could have done this at one event and then do
2 the crossing, the walking to the back of the bus at another event?
3 A Yeah.
4 Q Which is, which is more than likely happen, somebody to it that way or do it all at
5 one time?
6 A Uh it's more, it's more likely that they probably do it at separate times.
7 Q Different, separate times.
8 A Un huh (Affirmative)
9 Q Okay. And the three that you saw they did, they were just doing the ...
10 A The...
11 Q ...crossing.
12 A ...front to the back part.
13 Q Front to the back part. Is there a third or a fourth part to it?
14 A (No audible response)
15 Q Those the only two parts?
16 A (No audible response)
17 Q Okay. So it's a two part process to finish?
18 A In a, in a instance yes.
19 Q Okay. When we, just for my clarification uh have you ever witnessed a hot seat
20 being done to anyone?
21 A Yes.
22 Q Okay. In your witnessing of a hot seat being done you have seen them what
23 cover the head, cover the entire person.
24 A Un huh (Affirmative)
25

1 Q And they're being beaten. Where are they at at this point at the front of the bus,
2 and this could happen...

3 (Phone beeping)

4 Q ...where? This happens where at the uh beating part?

5 A The back of the bus.

6 Q The back of the bus also.

7 A Un huh (Affirmative)

8 Q Okay.

9 (Phone beeping)

10 Hey go ahead.

11 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

12 Q Okay. And when you say you were on the bus that night, were you participating,
13 have you, well first I have to ask you this, have you went through...

14 A Yes.

15 Q ...the, the process.

16 A Un huh (Affirmative)

17 Q And when did you go through the process?

18 (Background talking)

19 A Fall 2008.

20 Q And were you participating in the process this Friday night?

21 A I was there but I didn't participate.

22 Q Okay. If someone say that you were participating would they be lying?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. Saturday night you were to the game, Saturday you went to the game.

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Rode back on the bus.

2 A Yes sir.

3 Q Everybody dismounted the bus after y'all got to the parking lot.

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q And then I guess this incident occur. Were you there for that incident?

6 A No sir.

7 Q Okay. Okay I got a list, who's got the color pictures?

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q The what?

10 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

11 Q Color pictures. You know almost everybody in the band right?

12 A (No audible response)

13 Q By, by name.

14 A Uh maybe except for the freshman but people who have been there for a couple

15 of years...

16 Q Let's do this then. I'm a ask you people that were there Friday night, you see any

17 of them here?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Huh?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay which ones? Just what name would you know them as called?

22 A Say their name?

23 Q Yeah.

24 A Um Jessie Baskin.

25 Q Jessie Baskin?

1 A Yeah that's, that's the first person right here.
2 Q You writing that down?
3 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
4 Q Okay who, who do you, you recognize?
5 A (No audible response)
6 Q That guy.
7 A All three of them were there Friday.
8 Q All three were there on Friday at the bus?
9 A Un huh (Affirmative)
10 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
11 Q Okay.
12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
13 Q Okay.
14 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
15 Q And that would be Jessie Baskin, Darryl Corneal and Lasherry Conner, okay.
16 Were they involved in the hazing, in the uh crossing over?
17 A (No audible response)
18 Q The best you recall, I mean.
19 A I mean I'm not totally sure cause I mean it's kinda chaotic at times.
20 Q Un huh (Affirmative)
21 A And so I don't wanna...
22 Q Explain it to me, would it be people hanging out outside the bus or and on the
23 bus or switching and?
24 A I mean there's nobody hanging outside the bus.
25 Q Everybody's on the bus.

1 A Pretty much, like if you're there you're, if you're there you're, you're probably on
2 the bus, there's nobody really outside the bus.

3 Q What's the most people you think a be on the bus at one given time?

4 A Um it kinda varies, just kinda depends on what ...

5 Q Friday night.

6 A ... wanna be there so Friday, probably like 19, 19, 12 or so.

7 Q But these three people were hanging around; you don't know if they were
8 actually involved in the uh crossing over ceremony?

9 A I remember seeing them.

10 Q Okay.

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q Adrian I guess to just clarify, when you say you saw, you remember seeing them,
13 what is it that they, what he's trying to get from you is what is it that they're
14 doing?

15 A Like we were on the bus, like during...

16 Q Okay so what are they doing? What are those three people that you just
17 mentioned, what are they doing during this process, you need to spell it out for
18 me.

19 A I mean I'm pretty sure they were involved but I don't know for sure.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I mean they were like on the, when the crossing was happening they were on the
22 bus.

23 Q Okay but what are they doing when they're on the bus, if you can put them on the
24 bus you, like here you can see us sitting at the table. He's sitting there writing
25 okay so what are they doing, you, you just, look at me, just tell us the truth okay

1 and don't worry about what you're gonna answer and how it's gonna effect them.

2 Just tell us exactly what you saw as far as those first three people that you just

3 mentioned. What were they doing on the bus?

4 A They were involved in the crossing.

5 Q Okay and were they involved in this crossing means what? Were they striking,

6 the three people that were in the crossing that you mentioned before?

7 A Um the girl, she was kinda just following, she wasn't striking.

8 Q Okay so when you say following she helping her, you gotta explain.

9 A I'm just kinda, as the person moves back she was just kinda staying with the

10 progression of the person.

11 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

12 Q The group.

13 A Yeah.

14 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

15 Q Okay so she, would it be fair to say she's help pushing her through?

16 A Um I don't think she actually touched the person. I think she was just, as you like

17 climb over the seats you just...

18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q Being there, being...

20 A ...just kinda being there, right.

21 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

22 Q Let me ask a question. During a crossing do they always have somebody either

23 push, pull or follow incase...

24 A I mean...

25 Q ...for what reason?

1 A ...I mean it's kinda up to you.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I mean some people who are impeding progress, some people you know are just
4 there and then some people are actually like encouraging, whether it be vocally
5 or actually or helping. Cause like for her I mostly heard her voice if anything, I
6 didn't, and I saw her like moving with the, the progression of the person. I didn't
7 really see her like actually getting involved, just more, I just heard her and then I
8 saw her moving back so.

9 Q Okay.

10 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

11 Q And who was that with that, that she's doing this, this talking? Who was...

12 A Like pretty much all...

13 Q All three of those, so Jamon, Edwin and Evan?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay.

16 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

17 Q You're saying there's only 10 people on the bus, you, you should probably be
18 able to pick those 10 out on what their involvement was but how many, how
19 many of these type of incidents have you seen since you've been at the campus
20 or in the band? Rough estimate, I'm not gonna hold you to all of them.

21 A Including mine?

22 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

23 A Maybe three. I don't usually; I don't usually stay for them honestly.

24 Q How many have you heard of?

25 A How many have I heard of?

1 Q In the band. Does it happen every game; does it happen every other game?

2 A Um since I, since I've been in the band it doesn't happen every game or every
3 trip but I mean it's kind of like a see who seize the opportunity, you kinda do it
4 when you can. So every since I've been a part of the bus I've pretty much
5 known, I, like I've had a knowledge that they were going to do it but I haven't
6 always been there.

7 Q The ones that you have been on, has anybody passed out, fell out, been injured
8 or anything, I mean is there a reason why you have somebody following behind
9 them incase they go out or something or?

10 A I mean no I, like I said that's kind of up to the individual person who they wanna
11 follow. Cause me personally I just kind of, I just stay in the front, I don't follow
12 them. I don't follow them to the back. But um no I haven't, I haven't seen
13 anybody pass out or go unconscious or anything like that from any times that I've
14 been there.

15 Q You say you're always in the front, do you guys have assigned locations that you
16 need to be in or pertaining to on that bus when this happens?

17 A I mean me personally I just stay in the front. I mean but it kinda, it doesn't make
18 sense for everyone to go to the back, I mean ...

19 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

20 Q It'd be too crowded right.

21 A You know, yeah exactly, you only have so much room so.

22 Q So if you're at the front of the bus did Edwin, Jamon, Edwin and Evan, did they
23 do the hot seat first on the Friday?

24 A You talking 'bout right before they crossed?

25 Q Correct.

1 A So are you asking like did they do the hot seat thing, go to the front and then
2 crossing the?
3 Q No. Did they do the hot seat at all that night?
4 A Um honestly I, I'm not sure, I, I really can't remember, honestly.
5 Q Cause where is the hot seat done, is it done ...
6 A In the, in the very back of the bus.
7 Q In the very back of the bus. Okay so would you have seen...
8 A That, I sit towards the back so...
9 Q The back or the front?
10 A I sit, I sit towards the back, like when we're just riding on the bus, I'm in...
11 Q No I meant, I meant while this I going, when does the, the hot seats go? When
12 does...
13 A During the trip.
14 Q During the trip, while the bus is moving?
15 A Sometimes yes, sometimes no.
16 Q Okay I'm, I, I guess I thought these, these, the hot seat was going in, when the
17 bus is parked, when you're doing these crossing overs. So the, the hot seat can
18 go...
19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
20 Q It's a two part process.
21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
22 Q Yeah.
23 A No it's not, it's not always like right, it's not, usually it's not right before the
24 crossing...
25 Q Okay.

1 A Usually it's at a dif, it's at a different time, it might be the same day but earlier.
2 Q Earlier in the day.
3 A Yeah.
4 Q Okay but it has occurred while the bus is actually driving down the road?
5 A Un huh (Affirmative)
6 Q And uh, the, the, the, that, when was that happened? Did that happen on this
7 way down here, this trip, this, on the...
8 A Uh in Orlando?
9 Q Yes.
10 A I believe so yeah.
11 Q Okay who, who got the hot seat that day?
12 A Um I remember Jamon getting one, uh I believe Lissette got one, Edwin and
13 Evan.
14 Q Edwin and Evan?
15 A Yeah.
16 Q And these are all while the bus is moving?
17 A I believe so, yeah.
18 Q So Jamon Green, Lissette Sanchez, Edwin and Evan Calhoun.
19 A Un huh (Affirmative)
20 Q Okay did you see Robert get a hot seat while the bus was moving on that, that
21 trip down?
22 A No.
23 Q Okay.
24
25

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q In order for them to get a hot seat on that trip down they would have to be on that
3 bus.

4 A Un huh (Affirmative)

5 Q So I guess...

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7 Q So they're, when these happen in the back of the bus and it's moving were they
8 already sitting in the back of the bus or did they have to get up and go back
9 there, I mean this is...

10 A Had to get up.

11 Q They have to get up. So but these, these people that are on the bus what, what
12 uh teachers or parents were on the bus at that time?

13 A Um as far as teachers Dr. James was on the bus.

14 Q Dr. James?

15 A Un huh (Affirmative)

16 Q Okay. Who else?

17 A Uh I believe he's the only staff member that's, that's on the bus.

18 Q So this was on the ride down, so uh Dr. Clemmons and Dr. Jones were not on
19 the bus as you were driving down?

20 A Uh Dr. Clemmons wasn't on this trip and ...

21 Q He didn't come on the trip at all?

22 A I don't believe, I don't think so.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Yeah I don't, I didn't, I don't remember seeing him at all.

25 Q Alright.

1 A And then uh who's the other person, Jones?

2 Q Dr. Evans, I mean Dr. Jones yeah, Earl F. Jones.

3 A Okay that must be, (inaudible)...

4 Q Well they, they're calling him that that's why I'm trying to determine.

5 A If that's, I mean if that's who we call Ranger Joe but I don't think he was on the

6 bus either, was he? Was he on that trip?

7 Q I don't know.

8 A I mean he, he's usually on most of the trips.

9 Q Who, Ranger Joe?

10 A I mean that's what we call him but I believe that's his real name.

11 Q Dr. uh Evans, uh Jones.

12 A He's a doctor?

13 Q Well they, they, they're given him that title so I don't know. They, I have him

14 down as Mr. Earl Jones.

15 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

16 Q Well then he's not a doctor if they...

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q Well they, on the other list it's, it's, they've got it as doctor, that one right there in

19 your hand.

20 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

21 Q What is he on that?

22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Mister.

24 A Yeah...

25 Q Okay so you know him as, as Ranger Jones...

1 A Yeah.

2 Q ...and the Ranger Jones that might be Mr. Jones. What about uh, uh Tony...

3 A LaBelle.

4 Q LaBelle.

5 A That's the uh picture, he take the pictures.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Um I believe he was on the bus, he, yeah he usually makes most trips.

8 Q Was he on this one, on the one in November?

9 A Am I 100% sure no but...

10 Q Okay.

11 A ...most of the time, most, more than not...

12 Q But...

13 A ...he's usually on pretty much every trip.

14 Q Alright so on the way down when these, so you saw these uh, uh hot seats going

15 on on the way down on November...

16 A No not all, not all of them were on the, on the way down to Orlando.

17 Q Okay so which one was on the way down to Orlando?

18 A I'm trying to think; actually I think they all might have been like after we got to

19 Orlando, actually. I know Jamon, Edwin and Evan I believe were after the battle

20 of the bands, heading back to the hotel. And I think Lissette might have been as

21 well.

22 Q And that would have been Friday night?

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q So let, just so I can get it clear cause I'm a little confused here. Coming down to

25 Orlando this last trip did you see while you were on "Bus C" any hot seats go on?

1 A I don't believe so, no. I think, I believe they were all after...

2 Q Okay.

3 A ...we had gotten there already.

4 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

5 Q Okay so the bus driver, in your opinion is the bus driver aware of what's going on

6 at this point?

7 A As far as the, the hot seats are concerned?

8 Q Yeah.

9 A As far as hot seats, I don't think so. I mean she's way in the front of the bus.

10 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

11 Q You're talking about while the bus is moving or while the bus is parked?

12 A I mean the majority of the time they're while the bus is moving but some have

13 been done while the bus has been parked so.

14 Q Okay.

15 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

16 Q Uh the, okay (inaudible). (Inaudible). out of your own recollection without

17 looking at the pictures, who all can you name that was on the bus that night,

18 Friday.

19 A Friday. Um myself, uh Darryl, Jessie, LaSherry, uh April, Ryan Dean, Karrien.

20 Q Karrien.

21 A Karrien.

22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Karrien Cox?

24 A Yes. Um ...

25 Q The, the other one you said was, that was Ryan Dean?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Um...

4 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

5 Q Dean not Dease.

6 A No Dean.

7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

8 Q Dean, Ryan Dean. I thought he said Bryan (inaudible).

9 A Um Bryan Jones, uh...

10 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

11 Q Baskin.

12 A Yeah Jeff, Jeffery.

13 Q Jessie or Jeffery?

14 A Jess, oh Jessie I'm sorry that's his brother Jeffery not Jessie.

15 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

16 Q Yeah you mentioned him. LaSherry.

17 A Um...

18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q And when you say these people were on the bus, these people were on the bus

20 involved in the uh...

21 A I mean they were there.

22 Q They were there.

23 A Yeah. I can't, you know I can't ...

24 Q Say...

25

1 A ...with my own recollection say, I can't say what each and every one of those
2 people were doing but they were there.

3 Q You know CJ?

4 A Uh Caleb?

5 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

7 Q Yeah.

8 A Yes I know him, yeah.

9 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

10 Q Okay was he there?

11 A Uh honestly I, I don't remember...

12 Q Recall...

13 A ...seeing him so I don't, I don't, I don't know if he was there.

14 Q With that in your mind, uh with these names in mind and with the whole process
15 is there a hierarchy as far as to putting these together and carrying them out?

16 A The bus hierarchy?

17 Q A hierarchy as far as "Bus C" activities.

18 A We have a president.

19 Q As far as for "Bus C"?

20 A Un huh (Affirmative)

21 Q This uh hazing type stuff.

22 A I mean he just, he's president over the bus, he kind of regulates everything.

23 Q I'm saying does he regulate the putting together of these?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay and who would that be?

1 A Dontae Martin.

2 Q And who would be his generals or...

3 A I mean I, that's, that's...

4 Q ...assist him...

5 A ...pretty much it.

6 Q Okay.

7 A It's hard, just the president. I mean like any, anything else is like; it's kinda like

8 silly stuff. Like we have a secretary like they do roll call.

9 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

10 A Like they go over the bus list like to make sure everyone's here. Like when we...

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q A head count.

13 A Exactly...

14 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

15 Q (Inaudible)...

16 A ...when we stop...

17 Q ...you can't get on if you uh don't, haven't been through.

18 A No I mean if you're assigned to the bus then you're suppose to be on that bus.

19 Q No I'm talking, I'm talking 'bout after act, the after, I understand we have activities

20 that are suppose to happen on the bus. The riding to the uh game, the riding to

21 the hotel, but we're talking 'bout is the activities that occur after the normal

22 activities, these hazing type activities.

23 A Un huh (Affirmative)

24 Q You're telling me Dontae Martin puts those activities together?

25 A I mean he decides when they happen.

1 Q He decides when they happen. Okay and uh do anybody else assist him? Does
2 anybody else stands at the door, make sure that the people who come on are,
3 have gone through "Bus C", that, that is a requirement isn't it? If you hadn't...

4 A As far, as far as the, the, the crossing is concerned people that have, that have
5 already done "Bus C", those are the only people on the bus.

6 Q Right so is there someone...

7 A No I mean we, nobody ever really comes on the bus if they, you know, if they're
8 not a member of it so. So we don't really have to regulate and stand at the door
9 like oh no so.

10 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

11 Q Well what I think he's getting at is is there someone that, that says, bars anybody
12 from just coming on the bus so, so why can't bus H and just A people come on to
13 "Bus C"? Is it known that ...

14 A I mean they could but nobody does it.

15 Q Why?

16 A I mean people.

17 Q They're not part of "Bus C".

18 A Right, I mean nobody is just gonna just jump on the bus.

19 Q Okay. Is there somebody there to make sure that that doesn't happen and say
20 no keep the door closed and?

21 A Not, people just don't come around the bus like that...

22 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

23 Q Have you...

24 A ...as far as ours is concerned.

1 Q Have you ever been present on "Bus C" when these activities are going on and
2 the bus driver was present?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay. Have you ever been present on "Bus C" when these activities are going
5 on and a administrator, school administrator was present?

6 A No.

7 Q Henry Nesbit, you know him?

8 A Yes sir.

9 Q And what is his affiliation to this?

10 A He's a "Bus C" member.

11 Q He's a "Bus C" member.

12 A Un huh (Affirmative)

13 Q Was he there Friday evening?

14 A Possibly, like I said I don't, I'm not 100% sure but uh he prob, I think he possibly
15 was there.

16 Q Okay.

17 A But I'm not 100% sure.

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q When you're saying there we're talking just the particular time after everybody's
20 off the bus between this, what'd you say 10 and 11...

21 A Yeah.

22 Q ...on Friday night.

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q Okay. So was Henry Nessit down there between 10 and 11?

25 A I believe so.

1 Q Okay. What makes you think that he was there, you, you didn't mention him...

2 A I, I ...

3 Q ...in, in the earlier.

4 A Yeah I was, I was trying to, I had to like take a, a visual picture of like ...

5 Q Sure.

6 A ...whoever all rides the bus and I mean I just kinda, that's just all the names that

7 came to mind.

8 Q Does, does uh Henry Nesbit, was he doing something that you recollect? What

9 was his participation in that Friday?

10 A (No audible response)

11 Q Did he assist in the, in the uh hot seating of those three people?

12 A You talking 'bout throughout that Friday?

13 Q That Friday, yeah.

14 A No. No.

15 Q Did he do it with Lissette?

16 A No.

17 Q Why are you so certain that Henry didn't do that but yet he's on the bus?

18 A Because he didn't, I, I mean seeing as how I sit in the back I can kinda, I pretty

19 much, I can see, it's like, it's not too far behind me cause I sit towards the back

20 and uh Henry sits right behind me and he was sitting in the seat the whole time.

21 Q He, you talking 'bout the bus ride?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q I'm talking about when the bus is parked and when the, the hot seats were going

24 on what you were talking about earlier.

25

1 A There were no hot seats while the bus was parked on that Friday. They were all;
2 I said they were on the way back from the battle of the bands.

3 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

4 Q The battle of the bands.

5 A While we were actually driving to the hotel.

6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

7 Q So they were on the bus, it was while the bus was moving?

8 A In this particular instance yes.

9 Q Okay so Jamon was...

10 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

11 Q Not on, not on the drive down but on the drive from the battle of the bands back
12 to the hotel.

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q And then back to the hotel.

15 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

16 Q Is when the hot seats occur, hot, yeah

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q Those, and those four had it and you think maybe Lissette. You had, you had
19 Jamon Green, Edwin and Evan and then Lissette, you were...

20 A Yeah Lissette I, I know she got one but I'm, I'm just kinda fuzzy when. It might
21 have been at that same time but I know she did get one that...

22 Q Without a doubt the other three did from there, the battle bands back to the
23 hotel?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And was Henry Nesbit involved in that with those guys?

1 A No.
2 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
3 Q Okay.
4 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)
5 Q Who was involved with actually those hot seats from the battle of the bands back
6 to the hot, to the hotel?
7 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
8 Q (Inaudible)...
9 A No that was, that was just people when you asked uh when the crossing took
10 place that...
11 Q Okay.
12 A ...like people that I remember see, being there.
13 Q Okay.
14 A Um ...
15 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)
16 Q Was uh what you said earlier was Dontae Martin at the back of the bus from the,
17 of the battle of bands to the hotel orchestrating the hot seats for those three?
18 A Yeah he basically, I mean basically he just says...
19 Q No, no just, just answer the question. Was Dontae Martin, while those hot seats
20 that you mentioned of the three people, from the battle of the bands to the hotel,
21 was Dontae Martin orchestrating that?
22 A When you say orchestrating what does that...
23 Q Was he directing it? was he doing like you said, was he acting the president and
24 saying yes do the, these, these, the hot seats to these three?
25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay how was he doing that?

2 A I mean he just, he just tells us who is suppose to come back and then somebody

3 will...

4 Q Okay and then of those while this is going on continuing with this, who was

5 actually doing the hot seat? Who's hitting these people? And, and with what, are

6 they using their hands, are they using any instruments?

7 A Hands.

8 Q Their hands.

9 A Yeah.

10 Q And, and what's the orders are of what they're suppose to do? Can they hit them

11 in the head?

12 A No.

13 Q How do you know if you got the blanket over you?

14 A I mean people will, people are careful about what they're doing.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Like the, the purpose is not to you know seriously injure anybody.

17 Q Sure, sure.

18 A So I mean people are careful of what, you know where they're hitting people.

19 Q Okay so while these three are getting it done who is doing to whom?

20 A (No audible response)

21 Q They do one at a time?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Okay. Alright so let's go with uh when uh Jamon was going, who was doing it for

24 Jamon?

25 A Now I can't say exactly who.

1 Q Okay just tell me who you saw out of any of those three, did you see any of the
2 three?
3 A I mean I didn't turn around and look at the entire thing but I mean...
4 Q Okay.
5 A ...I kinda just, I was actually listening to my iPod on the way back but um ...
6 Q But you saw enough to see that...
7 A People I can probably remember coming towards the back, uh, um Jessie, uh
8 Bryan, Harold.
9 Q Who?
10 A Harold.
11 Q Harold.
12 A Uh...
13 Q What's Harold's last name?
14 A I believe its Finley.
15 Q Who?
16 A Finley.
17 Q Henry.
18 A No Harold.
19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
20 Q Finley, Finley, Harold Finley.
21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
22 Q Oh Finley, okay I got you. So Jessie Baskins, Bryan, is that Jones or you're
23 saying Ryan?
24 A No Bryan.
25 Q Bryan.

1 A Um...

2 Q Bryan Jones and Harold Finley. And who is the, that those, who are they uh

3 giving the hot seat to at the time that you saw?

4 A I can't remember but I'm know I mean I know they came to the back. I mean I

5 can't remember exactly like everything that went on as far as like who was sitting

6 down but I mean I know they were in the back. And they probably would

7 participate...

8 Q Did you see anybody striking somebody during the hot seat?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. Who did you see and do you know who was getting the hot seat at the

11 time?

12 A I remember seeing Jessie strike somebody.

13 Q Okay.

14 A But I was not completely sure of who it was.

15 Q Okay. How 'bout Bryan?

16 A I don't, I don't recall seeing Bryan strike anybody but I know he was, he was back

17 there in the area.

18 Q Alright, how 'bout Harold?

19 A Uh yeah.

20 Q Okay and to who was it to?

21 A I'm not sure.

22 Q Not sure, okay.

23 A (Inaudible)...

24 Q Anybody else?

25 A No not really.

1 Q Okay how 'bout Dontae, was, what, what was he doing at that, while this is going
2 on?

3 A I think he was in the, actually in the front of the bus, towards the front.

4 Q Okay so he, he left the back of the bus, went to the front?

5 A (No audible response)

6 Q Okay. How 'bout Edwin, did you see when Edwin got the hot seat?

7 A I just, I saw him come back.

8 Q Okay how 'bout Evan?

9 A I saw him come backwards. I, I pretty much, it's like I'm saying since I'm in the
10 back I can pretty much see whenever anytime somebody comes backwards.

11 Q That's all I wanna do, just get what you can account for and what you saw that's,
12 that's, you did very well thank you.

13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q Saturday when Robert went through, I understand that you weren't there.

15 A Un huh (Affirmative)

16 Q Who do you know of and heard of was there?

17 A Who do I know was there?

18 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

19 A Nobody. I, I can't say...

20 Q Say.

21 A ...100% since, since I wasn't there.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And I don't really wanna speak on who I heard was there because me myself I
24 don't know if that's true.

25 Q Okay.

1 A Cause with the story I, I mean me personally I feel like this is a lot so speculation
2 with the story, like, like there's a lot of things that may not be true or, or just aren't
3 true that are floating into the story and it's kind of distorting the picture that you
4 know everyone's trying to figure out you know to find out what happen so.

5 Q Okay. Okay. Uh when you got back to the hotel on Saturday night uh did you,
6 where did you go?

7 A Uh after we, after the bus part...

8 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

9 A ...um I got off the bus, I went to my room, uh kinda just sat there for a little bit,
10 turned on the TV, I believe I took a shower and uh I was trying to uh call some of
11 my friends so we could you know go somewhere or go out to eat. Cause we, we
12 been staying in that hotel for like the last couple of years so we usually all go you
13 know to the same, cause we all know the eating places around the same, so we
14 usually go to the same area. And uh so I was just kinda you know relaxing, took
15 a shower, um I ...

16 Q Did you ever return back to the bus?

17 A No, once I was in the hotel I actually never left the hotel.

18 Q Okay. What's your phone number?

19 A Uh 8 1 3 2 3 0 0 1 5 3.

20 Q Is that the same phone you had when you were uh, during, when this incident
21 occurred back on the 19th?

22 A Yes sir.

23 Q Uh and your current address.

24 A Uh local.

25 Q Yeah but I'll get, I want both but local first.

1 A Uh 4 7 3 Van Buren Loop.
2 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
3 Q Is that two words?
4 A Yeah, Van space Buren space Loop.
5 Q Spell Buren
6 A B U R E N.
7 Q Okay. Van Buren what?
8 A Van Buren Loop.
9 Q Loop?
10 A Un huh (Affirmative). Tallahassee Florida, zip code 3 2 3 0 7.
11 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
12 Q And your permanent address, home address.
13 A Uh 13 0 19 Terrace, T E R R A C E, Springs Drive. That's Tampa Florida, zip
14 code 3 3 6 3 7.
15 Q Where's that at?
16 A Huh?
17 Q Where's that...
18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
19 Q 3 3 6 what?
20 A 3 3 6 3 7.
21 Q Thank you.
22 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
23 Q That's...
24 A Technically it's Temple Terrace.
25 Q Yeah that's what I thought.

1 A Yeah.

2 Q Out there around Pasco.

3 A It's like right; it's like right by I-75.

4 Q Yeah okay.

5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

6 Q Is that, the first one is that a house or an apartment?

7 A It's an apartment.

8 Q What's the apartment number?

9 A Uh Kingston Square Apartments.

10 Q Um not what's the apartment number?

11 A Oh.

12 Q Is that, is that it, 473 or do you have...

13 A Yeah 473 dash 2.

14 Q Dash 2?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q And its Van Buren Apartments?

17 A Uh Kingston Square Apartments.

18 Q Oh I'm sorry King, Kingston Square, I got it.

19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

20 Q Okay. Can you think of anything that we hadn't asked you that is important about

21 what goes, what's going on with this or what happened during that uh incident

22 with Robert that we hadn't asked you...

23 A Um...

24 Q ...that would make it easy for us to understand this.

25

1 A As far as Robert is concerned, not really. Cause I didn't even know, I didn't even
2 know that he was, was participating in that bus that night so and then when I
3 wasn't there, didn't know about it so.

4 Q Okay uh let me ask you about this gentleman here, McCay.

5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

6 Q Charles.

7 A Charles.

8 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

9 Q Charles. Was he there Friday night?

10 A I don't recall seeing him.

11 Q Did you see him Saturday night?

12 A Um I mean when we were riding back on the bus but after I got off I didn't, I
13 never saw him again.

14 Q You think he was on the bus, rode back on the bus?

15 A Rode back from the game?

16 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

17 A I think so.

18 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

19 Q Would he have sat near you?

20 A Uh no. He sits; he sits more towards the front. I don't, I don't know too many
21 people that weren't on the bus riding back. I mean there might have been like
22 maybe one or two people, cause there's a couple of people from the area...

23 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

24 A ...so some, some people leave with their family cause the family comes to the
25 game. But no for the most, for the most part I think pretty much everyone that

1 rode to the game rode back. It might have been like 1 or 2 people but I can't
2 remember who. I know there's at least one person that didn't ride back cause
3 they were, I think they were with their family or, or something like that.

4 Q You know who that was?

5 A I can't remember at the moment but it was like, I was only like maybe one or two
6 people, pretty much everyone was uh, that rode back, that rode to the game rode
7 back to the hotel on the bus.

8 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

9 Q Just to clarify, 10 people on the bus Friday evening...

10 A Rough, roughly, yeah.

11 Q ...Amway Center to the hotel when the hot seat occurred?

12 A No. That was for the, the, the crossing part.

13 Q Okay the crossing...

14 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

15 Q The crossing is when it...

16 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

17 Q Okay.

18 A As far as...

19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

20 Q ...that's when the bus was parked.

21 A But as far as the, yeah.

22 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**

23 Q And you...

24 A And then on the way back that's pretty much a, a full bus, pretty much the, the
25 bus list.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q And then certain people just participated in the uh, what do you call it, the hot
3 seat in different portions of the bus.

4 A Yeah, I mean like you don't, you don't have to participate, like people, if you
5 participate it's kinda um like your, your own will.

6 Q You actually have people on the bus there that are not part of the "Bus C" thing.

7 A Yes.

8 Q So.

9 (AGENT DUNKIN)

10 Q And then Saturday evening you weren't involved period?

11 A At all. Some of the, it's, it's, when the bus got parked, soon as I got off the bus I
12 never returned to it, like I never even went below the 3rd floor of the hotel.

13 Q Prior to you getting off the bus was there any talk of any arrangements for
14 somebody going back on that bus to do the cross over?

15 A I knew, I knew about Lissette and that's it.

16 Q Who, who told you that that was gonna happen on Saturday night?

17 A I mean we, they had, we had talked about it.

18 Q Who, who's we?

19 A I mean Dontae decides when you know that stuff happens so I mean he kind of,
20 he lets, I mean we kinda knew it was, it was kinda common knowledge. We kind,
21 we kinda knew that, I knew about her at least. So I, I knew that she was probably
22 gonna go after the game. I mean that was just kind, you could, you just kinda
23 know.

24 Q So you, you knew that there was gonna be a, Lissette at least was, that was
25 gonna go through on Saturday evening at some point and time.

1 A Yes.

2 Q And you, you weren't in the bus, you didn't go on the bus afterwards...

3 A I, I got off, after I got off I went to the hotel and I never, I never left the hotel, I

4 never went outside the hotel until the next morning when we were leaving.

5 Cause I, I never even went, I never even went and got anything to eat.

6 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

7 Q Chiota.

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q Um so the talk about Lissette isn't anybody else talking about anybody else doing

10 that?

11 A To me, to my knowledge Lissette was the only one I knew about.

12 Q Okay. Well why wouldn't you, why wouldn't you come down if you knew Lissette

13 was gonna be doing it why wouldn't you be coming down and, and uh helping

14 out?

15 A Um me personally I'm just, I'm just not really that kind of person. So for,

16 throughout my duration on the bus, like after you know I, I did it, I haven't stayed

17 for very many of them. like when you ask me um how many have I witnessed

18 and I did it in the fall 2008, that's been roughly like what 3 years and I said like

19 what 2 or 3? I don't really, I don't really stay for them, like I'm just, that's just not

20 really me.

21 Q So fall of 2008 is when you did your crossing?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. Did you do a hot seat too?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. How'd you feel after the hot seat?

1 A I was a little sore but it wasn't too bad.
2 Q Did you throw up?
3 A No.
4 Q How 'bout after you did the crossing?
5 A What did I throw up?
6 Q Yeah.
7 A No.
8 Q Did you get faint, did you pass out at all?
9 A I didn't pass out. I, I was, I was a, I was, I was exhausted but other than that you
10 know.
11 Q How long did it take you to go from the front of the bus to the back of the bus?
12 A A couple of minutes.
13 Q it takes that long huh?
14 A Yeah it kinda, I mean it kinda depends on the person, like you, you kinda, you're,
15 it depends on the person, like you're making your way, like if you get there...
16 Q Un huh (Affirmative)
17 A ...in fast time I mean that's, you know that's you so.
18 Q Who orchestrated yours in 0, 08?
19 A I'm not sure. Cause I, I don't, I didn't really understand the hierarchy of the bus
20 then so.
21 Q Okay so that was your first year?
22 A My second year.
23 Q Your second year. Okay and uh who was present?
24 A I'm not sure?
25

1 Q You're not sure. And of the people that we're talking about now, do you
2 remember being there and, and doing yours in 08?
3 A Nah most of the people that were there are, are gone now.
4 Q They're gone.
5 A They're either graduated or they're no longer in the band or you know they're
6 getting on with their lives so.
7 Q Okay. Do you ever uh, anyone ever complain to the university about it?
8 A Not, not to my knowledge.
9 Q If need be um would you be willing to talk to us again?
10 A If you need me to.
11 Q Yeah, would you be willing to talk to us again?
12 A Sure.
13 Q Okay. And the statement that you just gave would you raise your right hand?
14 You swear the statement you've given is the truth and nothing but the truth?
15 A The truth and nothing but the truth.
16 Q And if necessary would you testify to that?
17 A Yeah.
18 Q Okay thank you.
19 **(AGENT DUNKIN)**
20 Q (Inaudible)
21 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
22 Q Thank you time, time now is 12:05 that will conclude this interview.
23
24
25

1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

3
4 

5 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JAMON GREEN**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE CHIOTA**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5 (alt. conversation)

6 Q. Jamon how do you ... how you spell your name?

7 A. J-a-m-o-n and uh, Green like the color.

8 Q. And birthday?

9 A. November the 1st of 198 (inaudible).

10 Q. And what's your phone number in case we need to talk to you later?

11 A. 407-729-6492.

12 Q. That's your cell phone number?

13 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

14 Q. Um, Jamal you ... you know obviously why we're here.

15 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

16 Q. Um, basically we're trying to talk to everybody that was ... everybody that was
17 there um, and find out what involvement, if any, or that they can tell us about
18 tradition. So, in your own words, what happened that night? Well first of all you
19 ... do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but?

20 A. (inaudible)

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. (inaudible)

23 Q. Yeah. You don't ... you don't have to talk to us. I mean, you've sat and waited
24 with us and you don't have to talk to us. If you wanna leave you can.

1 A. I mean if (inaudible) I just feel like I need a attorney then I'll just ... I'll just
2 (inaudible).
3 Q. You have that right.
4 A. Okay.
5 Q. You're ... but again, you're not under arrest. Uh, you have that right. I just
6 wanna make sure ya understand.
7 A. Okay.
8 Q. Alright, go ahead.
9 A. Okay so I'm sure like most people told you or whatever, you know, you ... you got
10 (inaudible) because uh, how the (inaudible) on I ride Bus C.
11 Q. Okay.
12 A. Whatever um, so after everyone leave or whatever uh, individuals got back on
13 the bus or whatever.
14 Q. Who are those people that got back on the bus?
15 A. Those people I don't know. I wasn't ... I wasn't on the bus at that time.
16 Q. Okay.
17 A. Whatever. Um, and I (inaudible) or whatever people to through but
18 Q. Who ... who ... who left with you then? If you left?
19 A. I left with uh, Lissette. Ya'll heard about her.
20 Q. Yes.
21 A. Okay.
22 Q. You left with her?
23 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative) We ... well, okay, after she got done with her whatever
24
25 Q. Okay so you were there during hers.

- 1 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative) And then I left.
- 2 Q. Okay. Hold on
- 3 A. Go ahead.
- 4 Q. Nobody leaves until everybody's done. Lissette stayed in the back the entire
- 5 time. So you left after everybody was done.
- 6 A. HmmNmm. (negative)
- 7 Q. Did you leave with her?
- 8 A. I left with her.
- 9 Q. Okay she didn't leave until after they were done.
- 10 A. I wasn't there ... well after she got done I left with her. I wasn't there on the bus
- 11 with her. I left ... well okay; after everyone was done I left with her.
- 12 Q. Right okay so where were you during the whole ... that's the whole thing. She
- 13 went through first.
- 14 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
- 15 Q. She stayed on the bus in the back
- 16 A. Until after they were
- 17 Q. until after it was done. Where were you?
- 18 A. I came back for her.
- 19 Q. You cam back for her.
- 20 A. (inaudible)
- 21 Q. Where were you?
- 22 A. I was in my room.
- 23 Q. Okay. What room is that?
- 24 A. I don't know ... know the exact number.
- 25 Q. Okay, we do so (laughs) you ... you went to your room

1 A. With William and Benjamin but uh

2 Q. Benjamin who?

3 A. Ubanks. William (inaudible). So after they were done I came back for her.

4 Q. So you didn't ... I confus ... uh, you're confusing me. You were there while she

5 was going through?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You left off the bus, she stayed, you were gone?

8 A. She was on there doing her thing.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. After she got done I came back for her.

11 Q. Okay so you ... as soon as you got back there you got off the bus and went to

12 your room.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. William Underwood and Benjamin who?

15 A. Bank ... Eubanks.

16 Q. How did you know to come back and get her?

17 A. Hmm?

18 Q. How did you know what time to go back to get her?

19 A. I'm sorry, lemme start over.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 A. I apologize. I was on the bus when she was getting through. After she got done

22 I got off with her.

23 Q. Okay so you were on the bus the entire time that everybody went through Cause

24 she didn't get off until the end of everybody going through.

25 A. Yes I was but ... okay, yes I was on there.

1 Q. Okay let's ... let's pretend that this is the bus right here.
2 A. Okay.
3 Q. Okay? Right here.
4 A. So at the end of hers everybody got off; I got off with her.
5 Q. Okay so this is the bus. (inaudible) this is my folder right here. Okay? This is
6 the center aisle, this is the front of the bus, this is the back of the bus. She goes
7 through and she's back here. Where are you?
8 A. After she got done I was in the front.
9 Q. Okay. So you started in the front and ended in the front?
10 A. Yes all I did was see her go through ... watched her go through.
11 Q. Okay and then you watched the other two go through?
12 A. No. Cause I didn't want ... the only reason I stayed on there for her because I
13 know her individually.
14 Q. Okay.
15 A. I know her cause she's from Or ... Orange County.
16 Q. Okay.
17 A. The other two I did not watch.
18 Q. What'd you do?
19 A. I stayed in the front.
20 Q. You just sat in the front?
21 A. Sat in the front.
22 Q. Now from what I've heard from other people that is not looked upon highly when
23 you're on the bus and you don't participate
24 A. (inaudible)
25 Q. in the bus. So when's the last time you got a hot seat?

1 A. That Friday.

2 Q. For what?

3 A. For what?

4 Q. What'd you get a hot seat for?

5 A. To go through the bus.

6 Q. You went ... you did the hot seat to go through the bus?

7 A. (no audible response)

8 Q. Okay so when did you go through the bus?

9 A. Friday.

10 Q. So you did a hot seat then you went through the bus and then you were done

11 and then Saturday ... did you get

12 A. I watched Lissette go.

13 Q. Did you get hurt?

14 A. Did I get hurt?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. How so? How much? Like where?

18 A. I mean, a couple scratches.

19 Q. How did you

20 A. I got a scratch on my shoulder.

21 Q. Okay. So having just gone through the bus the day before

22 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

23 Q. And Lissettes going through and then the two others are going through. You had

24 no part of that.

25 A. Because they were drum majors I didn't ... I didn't think about them like that.

1 Q. See that's ... that ... that's
2 A. (inaudible)
3 Q. the opposite of every ... everything that's said from so far, the people that
4 we've talked to. The opposite is that the drum majors get it the worst because
5 they're the ones that put you on your face; they're the ones that do all the stuff to
6 you when you're marching; they're the ones that'll control.
7 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
8 Q. They're like the cops. And this is actually a ... this is a quote from the people I've
9 already talked with – the drum majors are like the police. When you get a shot to
10 hit em, ya hit em. Okay?
11 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
12 Q. Oh then another quote is that the drum majors get it worse than anyone else.
13 Q. So you for you not to participate with the drum majors
14 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
15 Q. that doesn't sound realistic. Especially since you just went through in order to
16 get accepted, why would you not follow through the next day?
17 A. Because I didn't. I ... I promised to God on this one that I didn't touch anyone.
18 You would think after you go through something that you (inaudible) anything that
19 I'm in I don't do that. I'm a verbal person, I try to get you amped up to do better.
20 Q. Okay.
21 Q. Why did you decide to go through?
22 A. Being crazy, just said I'll do it.
23 Q. Was it more ... because what we've gotten from everyone that it's ... it's an
24 acceptance thing. Everyone knows that hey if I go through
25

1 A. Well no I ... I don't believe that's for me. Because I'm already Father Gregory,
2 (inaudible) uh
3 Q. So you've already gone through this before. (laughs)
4 A. Well gone through
5 Q. With Kappa Kappa.
6 A. Kappa Kappa Phi?
7 Q. Yeah.
8 A. Process?
9 Q. Yeah, that ... that process includes some of this stuff too. I'm not investigating
10 them I'm just saying I ... I heard from one my ... my partners at work whose
11 Kappa Kappa.
12 A. I'm not gonna go there.
13 Q. I'm just saying. So
14 Q. Trust me we
15 Q. Trust me we know.
16 Q. we were all in the military, we know of traditions and things that they go on so.
17 Q. This is just the last last thing for you.
18 A. (Inaudible) in acceptance so.
19 Q. It was just something you
20 A. (inaudible)
21 Q. (inaudible)
22 A. Yeah.
23 Q. Okay.
24 Q. Is it pretty much anything goes?
25 A. While you're going through?

1 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. What are you getting hit with?
4 A. I mean mostly percussion sticks.
5 Q. Percussion sticks?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. Okay.
8 Q. Jabbing, hitting, fists, knees?
9 A. I believe its just a stick.
10 Q. Is there anything that says specifically? Cause from what we're hearing uh, no
11 head shots. Pretty much else is a green light.
12 A. Well yeah when I was going through because you can't hit people's throat and
13 face and
14 Q. So from the neck down.
15 A. From the neck down.
16 Q. Any specif (inaudible – over spoken)
17 A. Well and, I mean, don't kick people in the gonads and
18 Q. Anything specific about Lissette that they didn't ... weren't allowed to touch?
19 A. Well face, you don't touch chests because she has breasts.
20 Q. Right.
21 A. Or whatever so don't touch that.
22 Q. But anything she said specifically not to hit or
23 A. I mean because she has uh, problems with her kidney, she has a weak bladder.
24 Q. Okay.
25 Q. So she said

1 A. Yeah you
2 Q. don't hit my kidney?
3 A. you can't touch her kidneys.
4 Q. So before a person goes do you have to let them know of any medical conditions
5 you may have?
6 A. Yes, it's just like joining anything, you know, you know, if we're gonna be running
7 let me know so I can get water or my asthma puff or something like that.
8 (Inaudible)
9 Q. So if you got a pace maker I ... I'm not wanting somebody to thump me in the
10 chest.
11 Q. When ... you're graduating?
12 A. They wouldn't even tell you to go do it. I'm sorry?
13 Q. You graduating?
14 A. Uh, I'll be graduating in the fall.
15 Q. Okay so you've been with the band for three years.
16 A. Four.
17 Q. Four years. You (inaudible – over spoken)
18 A. Well this'll be my fifth cause '07
19 Q. Okay, that's fine.
20 A. '08, '09.
21 Q. So from 2007
22 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
23 Q. up until just the Friday before this Classic, you never went through this?
24 A. Well you ... the bus is set up of lists.
25 Q. Right.

1 A. So when you're a freshman you ride on the freshman buses. And then you
2 matriculate into older people buses which are like A, B, C.
3 Q. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
4 A. Because A are individuals of um, your Chaplin, your secretary, your station
5 leader.
6 Q. Okay.
7 A. And then B are just all the people like (inaudible) upper classmen, percussionists.
8 And D you start getting your 2, 3 years and then it start going down to the
9 freshman bus.
10 Q. Okay.
11 A. And then we had A that day, A that truck.
12 Q. A what?
13 A. A buses, that truck.
14 Q. Okay. How many people went through in Classic?
15 A. (no audible response)
16 Q. So you went through ... you went through the bus. You went through bus C a
17 couple years ago. You just had a hot seat that Friday as well.
18 A. No, no I ... I went through the bus on Friday cause that was my first time riding
19 bus C.
20 Q. Why weren't you on the bus before?
21 A. Why wasn't I (inaudible) before?
22 Q. Because you're like ... you're ... you were in the band for like five years now.
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. Why weren't you on the bus before?
25

1 A. I didn't wanna ... I didn't even think about it, like even considering buses. The
2 last bus I rode (inaudible).
3 Q. Did you more so do it, do ya think, cause Lissette was gonna go through and you
4 were like I can do it?
5 A. To comfort her or whatever, save her from
6 Q. I mean just cause it's like you say, you've been in for five years and now all of a
7 sudden you decide to do bus C.
8 A. Just to help her, in a sense yes, because I'm close to her or whatever so.
9 Q. Okay. And that makes sense.
10 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
11 Q. Um, while you were on the bus you were there the whole ... you didn't ... you
12 didn't do anything with the second two? You didn't ... how did you help Lissette?
13 Did you push her through?
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. Okay so you were her
16 A. To push her to the back like (inaudible).
17 Q. So if she's not getting hit in the chest and she's not getting hit in the kidneys,
18 where's she getting hit?
19 A. I mean you get hit (over spoken)
20 Q. How are you
21 A. (inaudible – over spoken)
22 Q. My question is how are you helping her through that night without getting hit
23 yourself?
24 A. I mean I'm getting hit too.
25 Q. (laughs)

1 A. Because when you're ... when you ... if I'm pushing him and ya'll try to hit him,
2 ya'll not worried about me, ya'll are still trying to hit her and I may get hit

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. in the process.

5 Q. So did you get hit?

6 A. Get hit by them (inaudible)

7 Q. Yeah. Any of em specifically

8 A. (inaudible)

9 Q. that were doing more damage than others?

10 A. I wouldn't say that. I mean people just ... people (inaudible).

11 Q. Alright is there any talking that goes on?

12 A. Um, making sure you don't hit individuals face and make you (inaudible).

13 Q. Okay.

14 Q. Alright I'm gonna read down the list of names.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Say yes if they were on the bus during this; say no if they weren't.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Okay? Uh, Gerard Dees.

19 A. I don't remember. I don't remember him being on there.

20 Q. Okay. Marcus or Mark Berron.

21 A. I don't believe he was there, no. He didn't even do this.

22 Q. Okay uh, Jesse Baskin.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Uh, Evan Calhoun.

25 A. (inaudible)

1 Q. You don't know who he is?
2 A. No I don't.
3 Q. Okay then I don't want you to guess. Uh, Darryl Cernell.
4 A. No I don't remember him.
5 Q. You don't remember him?
6 A. On being on there.
7 Q. Okay. Uh, Shari Codner ... LeShari Codner.
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Alright, Carrien Cox.
10 A. No.
11 Q. Uh, (inaudible) uh, no I'm sorry, Ryan Dean.
12 A. (no audible response)
13 Q. Guy just were talking to.
14 A. I think so.
15 Q. Marcus Fabre.
16 A. Fabre, (laughs) no. He's a saxophone guy.
17 Q. No, he wasn't on there?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Uh, Harold Finlay.
20 A. Who?
21 Q. Harold Finley?
22 A. (inaudible)
23 Q. Okay, uh, Erin Goldsen?
24 A. Yes. Erin Goldsen?
25 Q. Yeah, Erin Goldsen.

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. Adrian Green?
3 A. No.
4 Q. Uh, Jam ... that's you. (laughs)
5 A. (laughs)
6 Q. Uh, Requesta Hardin?
7 A. No.
8 Q. Uh, Ashley Hodges?
9 A. No.
10 Q. Uh, Caleb Jackson?
11 A. Caleb
12 Q. CJ?
13 A. CJ, yes.
14 Q. Brian Jones?
15 A. I believe so.
16 Q. Uh, Jeffery Manning?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Uh, Jolani Marks?
19 A. No.
20 Q. Dante Martin?
21 A. I believe so.
22 Q. Charles McKay?
23 A. No, he was at his mother's.
24 Q. Uh, Benjamin MacNamy?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Henry Nesbitt?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Travis Robinson?

4 A. Travis Robinson, no.

5 Q. Jordan Rochester?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Edwin Rucker?

8 A. Yes I believe so.

9 Q. Obviously Lissette was.

10 A. Mmmmm. (affirmative)

11 Q. Germaine Scott?

12 A. I think so.

13 Q. April Tarpley?

14 A. I don't remember seeing her. I'll say no to that one.

15 Q. Steven Thorpe?

16 A. No. Steven got suspended again.

17 Q. Who is in charge of the tradition? Who makes the decision on who goes through;

18 who doesn't go through; who has to do a hot seat; who doesn't have to do a hot

19 seat?

20 Q. How many times they have to do the hot seat?

21 A. Well you have a president on there.

22 Q. Who's that?

23 A. Uh, Dante.

24 Q. Okay, who's the vice president?

25 A. Uh, I didn't ... I didn't know they had a vice president.

1 Q. Okay what's the next thing down?

2 A. I think that's it.

3 Q. What uh, what role does ... does uh, Henry Nesbitt play?

4 A. What role does he play?

5 Q. Yeah, his uh, does he have a ... does he have a rank?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Is he a confidant to (inaudible).

8 A. (inaudible)

9 Q. He's what? He's a section leader?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What section does he lead?

12 A. Uh, (inaudible).

13 Q. Okay and he was there.

14 A. HmmNmm. (negative)

15 Q. He wasn't there.

16 A. Henry wasn't there.

17 Q. Where ... do you know where he was?

18 A. (no audible response)

19 Q. How do you know he wasn't there?

20 A. Huh?

21 Q. How do you know he wasn't there?

22 A. Because I know he wasn't (inaudible). He was with ... who was he with? I don't

23 remember.

24 Q. What do you play?

25 A. I play piccolo.

1 Q. Okay. Who was ... if Dante is gonna make a decision on who's gonna go
2 through who does he talk it out with?

3 A. I guess the people that are on the bus, the older members of the bus.

4 Q. Who are they?

5 A. I'm not exactly who ... I'm not exactly sure who's been riding on there for that
6 much ... I mean for how long cause remember I've only been on there for one
7 year.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. So I wouldn't know

10 Q. This year though, who was he ... who'd he hang with mostly?

11 A. I mean he would ... he would talk with his fraternal brothers because we're

12 Q. Oh you guys are ...

13 A. (inaudible).

14 Q. you guys are Kappa Kappa?

15 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. So I don't know exactly who was back there.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Cause I just went through Friday.

20 Q. Would ... would he take it easy on you because you're his brother?

21 A. I mean I don't believe he'd touch me.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I believe like none of the brothers touch me.

24 Q. Okay. Um, ... yeah go ahead.

25 Q. The bus driver.

- 1 A. Wendy?
- 2 Q. Wendy, is that her name?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 Q. When ... when things get ready to go down and you get ready to do the hot seat
- 6 or walk.
- 7 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
- 8 Q. Who gives the sign?
- 9 A. What you mean?
- 10 Q. Like what's the sign to know that its gonna happen and
- 11 A. Well the hot seat is um, like in the back of the bus, whatever. It's like in the back
- 12 um,
- 13 Q. Is there a certain
- 14 A. like who give the
- 15 Q. Yeah there's a certain
- 16 Q. When is
- 17 Q. noise that's made or ...
- 18 A. That ... I mean ... they just bring you to the back or something.
- 19 Q. Yeah but do they ... they don't say anything?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Like bus C
- 22 Q. Bus C ahhh.
- 23 A. Oh you're talking about when you're ... hold on what ... what's your question?
- 24 Q. Like
- 25 Q. When would they do that sound?

1 A. (inaudible)
2 Q. When do ... when do they make that ... when do they make that sound, bus C
3 (sound)?
4 A. After you're done.
5 Q. After you're done. That's what ... that's what we've been told.
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. (sound)
8 A. After you're done.
9 Q. Okay. Um, the bus driver, Wendy
10 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)
11 Q. Does she know about the tradition?
12 A. I believe she does. Not the extent that people actually get hurt like that.
13 Q. Right but just ... just to
14 Q. She knows of the tradition and knows that she (inaudible).
15 A. Yeah. Cause basically they just tell her, you know what I'm saying, you're the
16 driver, you're on (inaudible)
17 Q. Did Wendy ever go through the hot seat or anything?
18 Q. I know it sounds crazy.
19 Q. Just because
20 Q. I know it sounds crazy but we've been told so
21 Q. Because she drives
22 A. Oh been through a hot seat?
23 Q. Yeah. That she went through, you know, walked the or crossing over you could
24 say.
25 A. I can't imagine a bus driver going through it.

1 Q. (laughs)

2 Q. Because I guess she's driven

3 Q. We can't either.

4 Q. she felt ... this is what we're hearing though that she wanted to go through it

5 and

6 Q. You never saw it.

7 A. No.

8 Q. Was she

9 Q. Or ever hear anything like (inaudible)

10 A. (inaudible) you don't look back behind or whatever until you done. Until you've

11 done the bus or whatever. And then when you're ... when you're not done you

12 get off ... you don't get on the bus until, you know what I'm saying, everybody

13 else get on.

14 Q. So what happens if you turn around and look behind you?

15 A. I guess they'll just hit you. I mean, I just never turn around. It's kinda like

16 Q. (laughs)

17 Q. You just

18 A. I mean it ... it's ... it's like if you tell me if you run then I'm gonna hit you or

19 something. Why run?

20 Q. Did somebody ever tell you that you couldn't look around?

21 A. I mean they ... they tell you ... they tell everybody that ... that (inaudible – over

22 spoken)

23 Q. If you turn around you're gonna (inaudible –over spoken)

24 Q. You've been in the band five years and you're not allowed to look behind you?

25 A. I don't. It's some stuff that you just don't do.

1 Q. (inaudible) of repercussions.

2 A. I look at it like anything, it's just (inaudible) anything.

3 Q. Did anyone talk to you after everything happened when you heard um, when

4 Robert

5 Q. When did you hear Robert had passed?

6 A. Well okay, after Lissette got done I took her to the little store, got her the band

7 student uh, help her (inaudible) or whatever ... just in case whatever cause of

8 him. (Inaudible) and I went to my room, took a shower and everything like that

9 and then I heard the new ... well I heard did anyone have information on Robert

10 or whatever because he's ... he might be going to the hospital. And the individual

11 in there was like a, you know, she ... (inaudible) assistant so lemme call em ... let

12 me call her or whatever. And by that time we had went to ... well between those

13 times are when I found out we was at Ale House. (Inaudible) might not make it.

14 And then when we got back to the hotel, what it was around like 2:00 Dr. White

15 called everybody back and was like, you know, Robert didn't make it.

16 Q. Were you talked to at any point?

17 A. To?

18 Q. Say we don't speak of what happened?

19 A. Well

20 Q. Snitches get stitches? Anything along those lines?

21 A. I'm not worried about that cause

22 Q. No, not worried about it but it ... did you hear it?

23 A. Huh? Oh no.

24 Q. Did you hear anything? (inaudible)

25 A. You mean like a threatening thing?

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. Oh.

3 Q. Nobody's threatened you not to talk to us?

4 A. No. Only I was advised on this, you know, get an attorney or whatever cause

5 you don't want anything to be twisted to you did it if you didn't do it.

6 Q. And that's why you were thinking about getting an attorney cause you didn't do

7 nothing?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Oh.

10 Q. Is there anyone that you recognize on the bus uh, past members who don't go to

11 school anymore or any of the drum majors, any of the sections leaders?

12 A. That were on the bus?

13 Q. On Bus C when the tradition went down?

14 A. Uh, I don't remember, no.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Q. (inaudible)

17 Q. Okay. Alright Jamon you promise everything you told us today was the truth, the

18 whole truth and nothing but?

19 A. Second time around, yes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 Q. Okay.

22 Q. Thank you man, appreciate it.

23 A. Alright.

24 Q. And I've got your number so if we need ya ... oh here ... here's my card in case

25 you have any questions after we're done.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 A. Could I talk to you alone?

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. (inaudible)

6 Q. Alright. Not him too?

7 A. Well, just you.

8 Q. Okay. Alright. Okay?

9 A. (inaudible)

10 Q. Beat it.

11 Q. I'm just cooler than him.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 Q. He is the professor type.

14 Q. You know it is ... it's the patches on the ... on the jacket.

15 A. Okay so the first thing I told you, I lied cause I'm like really scared. And I'm not

16 mostly scared for me. I'm mostly scared for those individuals that actually hit

17 him.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. Or whatever hit me or whatever. Not a threat to be like, you know, don't ... don't

20 tell. I didn't get no threat or nothing like that

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. or whatever so I'm not worried about that.

23 Q. But?

24 A. I don't know, I'm ... I'm just scared of the situation because I ... I promise to God

25 and I promise to God on this, like I mean I know I didn't do anything so I have

1 nothing to worry about on that. It's just the individuals that did like what happens
2 to them?

3 Q. I don't know man. I'll be honest with ya, right now this is an investigation that ...
4 that uh, is ... it's a hazy situation.

5 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

6 Q. Because hazing is against the law.

7 A. Oh yeah.

8 Q. But there's all different kinds of criteria for what hazing counts as, what ... what
9 different kind of levels there are, there's misdemeanor hazing

10 A. So the individuals that hit him

11 Q. there's felony in I don't know. I don't ... we're not gonna make ... here's
12 what's gonna happen.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. With this report, I won't be writing the report I'm ... I'm ... I'm an ... I'm a
15 secondary as far as even those three, of us three, neither one of us are ... are ...
16 are the head guy.

17 A. You're just trying to find out.

18 Q. Which we're ... I'm ... I'm just talking to everybody that I can talk to. There's like
19 thirty of you guys that I need to talk to so we're

20 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

21 Q. we're all broken up into different, different bands to do it. What's gonna
22 happen is after we get done with everything we're gonna ... the ... the main guy is
23 gonna listen to all the interviews, type down everything that was said, type up a
24 report and send it to the State Attorney's Office. State Attorney will make a
25

1 decision on what he can or can not do based on the law and what is met and
2 what is not met.

3 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

4 Q. Okay? You're saying you didn't have anything to do with it but you were in the
5 bus at the time when it happened. You went it through it the day before. What
6 does that mean? In my eyes, you're a victim. But in somebody else's eyes I
7 don't know. There's a lot ... lot of different things going on here.

8 A. See and that's why I wanted to turn it cause I wanted it

9 Q. No I understand.

10 A. (inaudible) to be stated.

11 Q. I ... no I ... and you ... but you've been ... you've told the truth and you've been for
12 ... straight forward. That ... that's gonna end up being here where you ... you've
13 ... we got a bunch of people that have ... won't ... won't talk to us.

14 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

15 Q. Making themselves look suspect and a bunch of people who will talk to us.

16 A. But see I was gonna lie and I thought about it and, you know, I might as well tell
17 the truth.

18 Q. You should.

19 A. (inaudible)

20 Q. The truth is the best way to go Jamon. The truth is the best way to go. The it ...
21 it literally will set you free. Okay?

22 A. I would say the most scariest part was when you was asking those individuals
23 that was on the bus at the time.

24 Q. Right. Did you lie about any of those?

25 A. No, I didn't.

1 Q. Okay so you ... up to your best of your knowledge those people were on the bus
2 when you were on the bus and

3 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

4 Q. you left ... after you left.

5 A. Those people that were on the bus, I knew they were on the bus. And the
6 individuals ... some the people I

7 Q. Some people you don't know. I just put a

8 A. (inaudible)

9 Q. See, you can see right there. See I've got like a dash, X, check? A dash means
10 you don't even know who the people ... person is.

11 A. Yeah. I mean 350 people ... (Inaudible).

12 Q. A lot of people.

13 A. Yeah so I don't know everybody in the

14 Q. Right.

15 A. individually.

16 Q. So um, can I guarantee that nobody's gonna get arrested? No. Can I guarantee
17 that anybody will get arrested? No.

18 A. Oh, no I'm not saying that I'm saying cause, I mean, if you hit that person and
19 you may be the cause of the death.

20 Q. The cause of the

21 A. You might

22 Q. The cause of the death

23 A. Well the cause of the death is a heart attack, from what the doctors say,
24 professional doctors say. So that's how I take it as well.

25 Q. But it's ... they'll say it's a heart attack with mitigating circumstances.

1 A. Well

2 Q. That it was brought on by

3 A. Brought on, okay.

4 Q. But they ... but they won't call ... it won't be called murder. It won't.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. It can't be. There's nobody ... nobody intended to kill him.

7 A. Right.

8 Q. You guys were doing something everybody's always done. It's a haz

9 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

10 Q. it's hazing. Hazing is the issue here.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Alright? And the hazing is either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on how

13 things go. And depending on who they can do. It may be worse for the people

14 who headed it up as opposed to the people who were just sitting in the bus and

15 not doing nothing. But anybody on that bus, and we knew you were on the bus

16 anyway.

17 A. Mmhmmm. (affirmative)

18 Q. Anybody on that bus and you ... all you're saying is that you were on the bus; you

19 didn't hit anybody because you didn't like getting hit the day before. So how do

20 you fall into a hazing person as being on the bus? I don't know. It all depends

21 on how a lawyer wants to ... to discuss it.

22 A. How they look at me.

23 Q. And ... and if ... and if it does come down that they wanna put charges on you,

24 then ya you need to get yourself a lawyer.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. But will it come down to that? It's hard. I ... I've had better cases not go. I've
2 had better cases on ... with victim's saying that's the person who did it and the
3 person confessing saying yeah I did it and it's ... and depending on what the
4 lawyer thought is different. Okay? I can't guarantee any of that stuff. I would
5 recommend that if ... if it comes into play that they wanna put charges on you or
6 somebody ... the State says that we need to have you come in; do whatever, talk
7 about getting yourself an attorney like you said.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. So that you can be defended properly. What you've done today is you've told us
10 the truth and I appreciate it. And you, as I told you before, you were free to leave
11 anytime you wanted to and I appreciate that fact ... we didn't harm you or
12 anything. Right?

13 A. No.

14 Q. We didn't threaten you, we didn't coerce you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. We were ... we weren't ... we ... we didn't Bus C you. Right?

17 A. (laughs)

18 Q. (laughs) Right?

19 A. No.

20 Q. We didn't make you do it. So um, we appreciate you talking and I appreciate you
21 being honest and ... and that's what we wanna see from people (inaudible).

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You know, you ... you ... you dress nice.

24 A. Thank you.

25

1 Q. You ... you look like you came here to get something done in your life as
2 opposed to the other people who ... now some ... some of these people weren't
3 even in school.

4 A. Cause I got a ... I

5 Q. How many ... how many in the band do you know that aren't in school?

6 A. You know I hear of people not in school but I don't ... I don't know

7 Q. How is that possible?

8 A. I'm not that type of person to like ... just be like ... I don't know. Like I guess they
9 call em missing now to go out and like research people not being in the band
10 cause I got advised this morning I have two more classes to graduate.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. That's what I'm worried about.

13 Q. That's what you need to worry about. You need to worry about you. And all this
14 other mess, you ... you're done. You're done as far as I know there's ... every ...
15 every club in this college seems like the ... you gotta do something to get into it.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Think you're done right? You've done everything you need to do. Be done with
18 it.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Concentrate on the two classes you got left then go on and do whatever you're
21 gonna do in your life. Alright?

22 A. Alright.

23 Q. Alright man, good luck. Thanks. I gotta go find my partners. Man it is 12:30.
24
25

THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

DETECTIVE Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 A Uh, 3.

2 Q You went through it 3 times? And over a period of how long?

3 A Probably like 4 or 5, 4 or 5 minutes.

4 Q Okay. 3, okay, over, your first time you went through the hot seat was when?

5 A Uh, that I can't tell you, I don't know.

6 Q It ain't that, been that long?

7 A Yeah, I don't remember, yeah.

8 Q But I'm was staying what, if I was to say, over, it took a year from the time he

9 went through the first hot seat and the time you crossed over, would that be a fair

10 assumption?

11 A Well, I just, my first time being on the bus was this semester.

12 Q Okay.

13 A So, between the first game we go, we went somewhere.

14 Q Um hum.

15 A Between the Classic.

16 Q So this year, this school term you, this, this fall semester, you have pretty much

17 been through 3 hot seats and crossing over.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. So that's in a 3 month period of time.

20 A When I first came like (inaudible)...September, October, November okay, 3

21 months yeah.

22 Q In a 3 month period, you done went through the what do you call it? Hot seat,, 3

23 times.

24 A Hot seat 3 times.

25 Q And you crossed over.

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q Okay, and last time you went through the hot seat was when you were in

3 Orlando.

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q And the next night you participated, well, the same night you went through the,

6 uh, crossing over.

7 A Yes sir.

8 Q So you did the hot seat and the crossing over?

9 A Um hum.

10 Q Okay, that's what I want to talk to you. Okay. I take it that um, basically, you

11 guys went to the Battle of the Bands.

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q When you left the Battle of the Bands, during the return trip from the Battle of the

14 Bands to the hotel, uh, there was some hot seats going on?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay, and you are, were, who, who did you have to get in contact with to be, to

17 go through this. So who contacted you and tell you to go through this?

18 A Um, well, when you on the bus, they just, uh, you know catch you to go to the

19 back or whatever to get the hot seat.

20 Q And uh, you know who tapped you and told you to go to the back?

21 A No specific person. I, I don't remember that.

22 Q Do you know who's considered the president of the, of the bus seat?

23 A Uh, Dante Martin.

24 Q Dante Martin. Do he have any uh, people that he, that you would consider as

25 um, second in charges to him?

1 A Um, that I would know. I mean, because I just went through on Friday. I wouldn't
2 know what goes on in the back.

3 Q So you went through the hot seat.

4 A Um hum.

5 Q Uh, they threw a blanket over you and you were beat?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. That happened while going back to the hotel from the Battle of the Bands.

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Once you uh, got back to the hotel, did you, what happened?

10 A Oh, they just told me to wait on the bus or whatever, and then I'll be sent through.

11 Q Okay, and who told you this?

12 A I want to be sure, but I'm not sure, I'm sorry.

13 Q Okay, uh, so, uh, once they, what are they waiting on everybody to leave or?

14 A Uh, well, yeah, other band members and everything to clear away.

15 Q Okay, once they clear away, what happens?

16 A And then I went through the bus.

17 Q Went through the bus. Were you the only one?

18 A Uh, and two other people, Evan and Rocker.

19 Q Okay, Evan and Rocker. Your talking about, let's see. Edwin Rocker and Evan
20 Calhoun?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. Okay. And all 3 of you'all finished the process.

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q Okay. Okay, let's move on to Saturday.

25 A Okay.

1 Q No, let's stay there.

2 A Okay.

3 Q Let's stay on Friday night. Friday night. Who (inaudible) I, I, I don't understand a
4 lot, you know, that you guys are, feel that you're being ostracized, you know,
5 because of the simple fact that we're asking you to name people and things of
6 that nature. But, it is, you're not the only one, trust me. Uh, it has to be done.

7 A I understand.

8 Q And so we're just moving through with the process, okay.

9 A Um hum.

10 Q Okay, these names that you provided to them. I have 16 names here. Or some
11 of them I think I added. They got question marks. But uh, Jerrod Dease, was he
12 on the bus Friday?

13 A I remember telling I don't remember. If he was on...

14 Q You don't remember?

15 A Um um.

16 Q Jesse Bascomb?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay, was he involved in the hazing activities on Friday night?

19 A Well, like I was telling them last time I got interviewed, that Saturday. Well, I
20 don't know if...(overtalking).

21 Q Talking about Friday?

22 A Oh, we're talking about Friday. Oh. No Jerrod wasn't on there. Jesse Bascomb
23 wasn't. Oh, what's the next person that you said?

24 Q Evan Calhoun? He went through right?

25 A Yeah.

1 Q Okay. Darrel Cerneal?

2 A Oh, he was there.

3 Q He was there. Was he involved in the activities when you all through the line?

4 A No, no. Um um.

5 Q Lasharrie Cotner?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Ryan Dean?

8 A No.

9 Q Harold Finley?

10 A I can't tell who it is.

11 Q Aaron Golson?

12 A Yes.

13 Q He was there Friday night?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Jamon Green? That's you. Okay. Caleb Jackson? Or Caleb? Don't know him?

16 A No. Caleb.

17 Q Caleb. C.J.

18 A C.J. Oh, that's his name, oh, okay. Uh, yeah, he was there. I'm sorry.

19 (Inaudible)

20 Q Everybody knows C.J. by C.J.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q And Bryan Jones?

23 A I'm not sure if he was there.

24 Q Okay, Dante Martin?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Benjamin McNamee?
2 A I believe he was there.
3 Q Edwin Rocker? He went through.
4 A He went through.
5 Q April Tarpley?
6 A I'm not sure about her.
7 Q Okay, and Lissette?
8 A She wasn't there.
9 Q Friday night.
10 A Friday night.
11 Q She didn't get the hot seat Friday night.
12 A No, because they only kept the people on the bus, I remember that went through.
13 Or that would have went through that night. I remember seeing her.
14 Q On the way back did she get the hot seat, you know?
15 A Unless she got it on the way back.
16 Q Okay, now (inaudible).
17 **(S.A. Duncan)**
18 Q Pertaining to that, I mean, when you get your hot seat.
19 A Um hum.
20 Q You're crash position?
21 A Yes.
22 Q Do they cover you?
23 A Uh huh.
24 Q Are you, do they do all of you at the same time or separate?
25 A Oh, one by one.

1 Q One by one.

2 A Um hum.

3 Q What were you in that order? First or last?

4 A Uh.

5 Q Were you able to observe anybody else getting the hot seat?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay, so.

8 A 'Cause when they, when they, when they do the hot seat whatever, they just pull

9 you back whatever and they put you back in the seat. Uh, put you back in the

10 seat that you were in. So, you know.

11 Q I mean, is there an op, is there a chance...(overtalking).

12 A The order, no.

13 Q Is there a chance that there could have been more than the 3 of you, 4 of you

14 there.

15 A Um um.

16 Q And somebody get through that you don't know or do they. Everybody's good

17 ...(overtalking).

18 A If they would have, then I would have been off the bus by then. So I wouldn't

19 have knew if they had brought anybody else on.

20 Q Okay.

21 **(Detective Phelan)**

22 Q Saturday night, were you on the bus Saturday night after they got back from the

23 game?

24 A Oh, yes.

25

1 Q Okay. And what were? Let me ask you this. Were you on the bus when Robert
2 Chapman came on?
3 A When he came on yes.
4 Q Okay. Did you notice whether he was put through a hot seat at that time?
5 A No, I didn't know that. I didn't know.
6 Q When he, okay. Who's the first one to go through Friday night, Saturday night?
7 A Lissette.
8 Q Lissette. Okay, Lissette went through.
9 A Um hum.
10 Q And she made it to the back.
11 A Um hum.
12 Q You assisted, you were assisting her, right?
13 A Yes.
14 Q Trying to help her through.
15 A Um hum.
16 Q And after she got to the back, did you remain in the back or did you come back
17 to the front?
18 A I went back to the front because I didn't want to. 'Cause the rest of the people
19 they had lined up were drum majors and I didn't care for it.
20 Q Okay. So you were at the front. The next one was Keon.
21 A Yes.
22 Q You see Keon go through?
23 A No. I'm sitting in the front like.
24 Q In the very front.

25

1 A In the very front, like the stairs, what are they stairs? Stairs. Are their stairs on
2 the bus? Steps. Steps on the bus.

3 Q Okay, so you don't see Keon go through? I guess I'm used to old school bus.
4 It's short. You see everything.

5 A Well, not with a charter bus because you have the steps and then you go up or
6 whatever. With like a yellow bus, I mean, maybe, but still they still have little
7 brown walk.

8 Q I know what you're talk, saying.

9 A Okay.

10 Q You know, but you, you can hear it, hear that.

11 A You can hear.

12 Q You can hear the activity that's going on.

13 A Um hum.

14 Q Uh, so he goes through. He's done.

15 A Um hum.

16 Q And you're basically waiting on Lissette to get through. 'Cause she can't come
17 from the back until everybody's done, right?

18 A Until everybody done, yes.

19 Q Okay. So then you are sitting there and Robert comes on the bus. Or was he
20 already sitting on the bus.

21 A Well, he's already sitting on the bus. He came with Keon.

22 Q Keon came with him?

23 A Um hum.

24 Q It's the two of them. Okay. What about, the arrive together, nobody else?

25 A Uh, no I don't remember anybody else.

1 Q Okay. Robert starts through.
2 A To go through, yes.
3 Q Okay, do you see the other drum majors to come and get on the bus. Jonathan?
4 A No, I didn't see them.
5 Q Ricci?
6 A (Inaudible)
7 Q You know, you know who I'm talking about?
8 A Yeah, I know Ricci.
9 Q Okay, you didn't see him get on the bus?
10 A I didn't see him.
11 Q So he's going through. Did it seem that either one of them out of the 3 of them
12 did any of them seem longer than any of the other ones, or?
13 A Um, no, just usually don't take long or whatever. Nobody usually seems longer
14 than anyone else.
15 Q Okay, we gonna go back to your list now. On Fri, the list that you gave and we
16 gonna look at for Friday night, Saturday night.
17 A So that list (inaudible).
18 Q Same list. We gonna look at for Saturday night.
19 A Okay.
20 Q Jerrod Dease?
21 A No.
22 Q No.
23 A No.
24 Q Saturday night. Jesse Bascomb?
25 A Yes.

1 Q Evan Calhoun?
2 A Possibly.
3 Q Darryl Sernel?
4 A Yes.
5 Q Lasharrie?
6 A Yes.
7 Q Why everybody yes when I said Lasharrie?
8 A Oh.
9 Q Is she loud or is she?
10 A She's a loud individual. She's a female, she's always loud.
11 Q Okay, Ryan Dean?
12 A No.
13 Q Uh, Harold Finley? That's the one you don't know who it is.
14 A Yeah, okay.
15 Q Aaron Golson?
16 A Yes.
17 Q Jamon Green?
18 A That's me.
19 Q That's you. Caleb, C.J.?
20 A She's here, yes.
21 Q Bryan Jones?
22 A I think he was on there.
23 Q Dante Martin?
24 A Yes.
25 Q Benjamin McNamee?

1 A Um hum.

2 Q I mean, why, is she, are you allowed to help, I mean, what's the deal?

3 A Yeah. Well, I mean, she's my really close friend or whatever and I just wanted to

4 assist her through. I mean, then she's a female, you know.

5 Q Because you also state you don't care for it. I'm assuming you're saying you

6 don't care for the hazing.

7 A Care for the hazing?

8 Q Yeah. No, care for what their doing. I mean, you condone the, the cross over or

9 what's your thoughts on that. Should everybody do it or should nobody do it or?

10 Or is it just rite of passage?

11 A I don't...(overtalking).

12 Q Or what's the deal with this?

13 A I mean, I don't condone anything. Anything you do, you choose to do. So no, I

14 don't condone, I don't condone it.

15 Q 'Cause she elected to go through the, the cross over, Lisette.

16 A Uh, yes, she elected, what you mean by uh, elected?

17 Q That she was good with going ahead and doing it?

18 A Yes.

19 **(Detective Phelan)**

20 Q It was her decision.

21 A Her decision.

22 **(S.A. Duncan)**

23 Q And did she ask you to help her through or is that your choice?

24 A No.

25 Q And that's not frowned upon?

1 A I mean, I don't know. Nobody said you can't help anyone else through.

2 Q I mean, it's happened, have you seen it happen before where you can help?

3 A Help someone through? No. I mean, 'cause I just went through Friday, so I

4 wouldn't have seen anyone else.

5 Q Oh, okay. What was, what was, uh, I know you had to wait on the front of the

6 bus till Lissette came up. Once you got her to the back, you go back to the front.

7 A Um hum.

8 Q Did you pass anybody or they wait till you get back to the front before they sent

9 somebody else?

10 A Well, they was getting ready to send Keon through and I just walked past him.

11 (Inaudible)

12 Q When Lissette finally comes off the front of the bus to you, did you go get her or

13 did she come to you?

14 A She just walked off.

15 Q What was, what was her mental and physical?

16 A I mean, she was, of course tired.

17 Q She have any injuries? Did she, was?

18 A She didn't say anything about injuries.

19 Q Pass out, was she sick? Okay, ...

20 **(Detective Phelan)**

21 Q I thought you went and got her some pain pills or something.

22 A Yeah. I mean, 'cause of course you're in pain and you're tired.

23 **(S.A. Duncan)**

24 Q That's just the standard through.

25 A Yeah, I mean, if you go...(overtalking).

1 Q If you go through it you will be in pain
2 A It's just like exercising. If you exercising, and you hurt, you set some medicine.
3 Some pain medicine at least.
4 Q So she's in pain. She make...(overtalking).
5 A Well, I'm, I mean, I'm, I'm figuring she's in pain 'cause when I went through I had
6 a little pain myself so I got some Bayer's medicine.
7 Q Okay. And she didn't pass out or get sick or anything of that nature
8 A Well, when I got to her room, uh, she was like, she was okay. So after that.
9 Q And you had no, you didn't observe Mr. Champion go through. Did you observe
10 him come out?
11 A Um um. I just got Lissette and went on about my way.
12 Q Was he still on the bus or had he gone through yet by the time you two left?
13 A Well, I know a lot of people were moving off the bus. I didn't notice him getting
14 off, no.
15 Q Let me ask you, Jamon. You noticed a lot of people getting off the bus. Are
16 those the same people that you've identified here?
17 A That were on the bus, yes.
18 Q Correct. Is there anybody that we've not spoken about that you saw get off that
19 bus? That we have not asked you the name?
20 A No sir, everyone that I told you that I seen on the bus, got off the bus.
21 Q Got off the bus.
22 A Uh huh.
23 Q How did you find out about Mr. Champion's passing.
24 A Well, after I had already got Lissette to her room. I went to my room. I took a
25 shower, whatever. And Kimmie was in my room at the time (inaudible)... she

1 asked did anyone have any information on, on like Robert like, any contact
2 information. Uh, like a family member or something and um, one of the piccolo
3 players that were also in the room asked, was like I got a sister number so they
4 had went outside and said something. Uh, they talked about the contact
5 information.

6 Q Somebody outside was asking for the contact information?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Then did they come in and tell you what happened?

9 A Um, no. They, I mean, they just asked for contact information.

10 Q Is there, ...

11 **(Detective Phelan)**

12 Q I guess what he's trying to say is how did you know that Robert had been injured
13 or was...?

14 A Well, at like around 2 o'clock, whatever, Dr. White called us to a meeting to tell us
15 that Robert Champion had passed away. That's when he called the whole band
16 or whatever into a meeting.

17 Q The second floor?

18 A Yeah, it could have been the second floor. Somewhere where the pool is.

19 Q (Inaudible)

20 **(Detective Segreaves)**

21 Q Just my only questions were, coming in in the tail end of a lot of things here so.
22 What bus did you ride Friday night?

23 A C.

24 Q How about Saturday night?

25 A C.

1 (Detective Phelan)

2 Q You were with, of the way that it, uh, works, the crossing over. Now or even
3 Saturday night, you are able to be involved in the beating parts of it now, at that
4 point, right.

5 A Am I able to?

6 Q After you, after you finished on Friday night, you were eligible to be involved in
7 the beating parts and all that, right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay, so you elected what, not to be involved in that?

10 A Not to be involved. And like he was saying, frowned upon. I mean, I wouldn't
11 have known.

12 Q Okay, I'm a, we're gonna go off tape for a while and uh, I'm going to show you a
13 video of the back parking lot to see if you recognize any of the people.

14 A Okay.

15 Q And if you do, we're gonna come back on tape and uh, we'll mark what time it is
16 and see if we can get that taken care of, okay.

17 A Okay.

18 Q Okay. The time is now uh, 1355 hours and that will conclude this portion of the
19 interview. You swear that everything you said is true?

20 A True.

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14 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

15 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

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18 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JAMON GREEN 3**

2 **DETECTIVE DAVID PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **RECORDED DECEMBER 6, 2011**

5 **TYPED DECEMBER 12, 2011**

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7
8
9 **Okay, today is Tuesday, December 6, 2011, the time is now... got a watch? (SA)**

10 **4:2... 1435 hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan also present from the**

11 **Department of ... Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Special Agent Jeff**

12 **Duncan. And we're at the FAMU Police Station speaking with..**

13 **A Jamon.**

14 **Q In reference to the death of um, Cham.. Robert Champion. We are just now go..**

15 we have reviewed the video of the parking lot and the interior of the hotel where

16 this incident occurred. And we're going back on tape now to clarify some times

17 and names that were observed in that tape. Ah, you (Inaudible)...

18 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

19 **Q I'm gonna run down these, these times in cameras reference what you observed**

20 and just verify whether or not it's what you recall.

21 **A I'm sorry, I'm verifying what?**

22 **Q These times that we were talking about on the video?**

23 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

24 **Q People that you saw on video.**

1 A Okay.

2 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

3 Q Zero 93515, you saw Shawn again?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. Nine 3646, CJ?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Then on panel 6 at 9:41:09, um, senior drum major? Is that...

8 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

9

10 Q That's me. That's the one I saw.

11 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

12 Q Okay.

13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q Yeah that's the one.

15 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

16 Q You saw that one?

17 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

18 Q Yeah.

19 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

20 Q None 2513, Victor Ganes?

21 A Victor Ganes, yeah.

22 Q Ganes. Nine 27:52, Jess.. Jessie?

23 A Jessie.

24 Q Okay.

25

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Where do he see himself at.. 9:30.

3 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

4 Q And then you observed yourself at 9:32:39, yourself with Lissett?

5 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

6 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

7 Q we need you to speak up.

8 A Yes.

9 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

10 Q Okay. And this is primary times that we had. Also while we were off the record I
11 showed you a photograph individual in the yellow shirt?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q You advised he was on the bus?

14 A Yes.

15 Q On the Saturday and Friday incident?

16 A Friday I don't remember, Saturday I do.

17 Q Okay, so he was on there Saturday during the incidents of the crossover?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And the individual that has been identified would be Harold Findley?

20 A Oh that's him. (Inaudible)... name um.. (Inaudible)...

21 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

22 Q Okay, that will conclude this interview. You swear everything we just put on tape
23 is true, whole truth?

1 A Sure.

2 Q Okay. Time is now 14:48 hours.

12 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

13 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

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16 DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF HARDAN REQUESTA**

2 **DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **RECORDED DECEMBER 6, 2011**

5 **TYPED DECEMBER 12, 2011**

6
7
8 **Okay, I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal**
9 **Investigation Division. Also present is Detective Angelo Chiota, Orange County**
10 **Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division and present from the Florida**
11 **Department of Law Enforcement is.. Special Agent Jeff Duncan. And we're here**
12 **in reference to the death of a.. (DC - Robert Champion), Robert Champion. Ah,**
13 **and today is Monday... Tuesday, (DC - December...) December 6th, 2011, the time**
14 **is now 1205 hours. And your name young lady?**

15 A Um, Requesta Harden.

16 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

17 Q You have to speak up a little I can't hear you.

18 A Oh, Requesta Harden.

19 Q Requesta?

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

22 Q Yeah.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q Is it R-E-Q-U-E-S-T-A?

1 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
2 Q Harden, H-A-R-D-E-N?
3 A Yeah.
4 Q Do you have a middle name?
5 A Shenitra.
6 Q Can you spell it please?
7 A S-H-A..
8 Q S-H-A...
9 A ...-N-I...
10 Q ...N-I...
11 AT-R-A.
12 Q (No verbal response.)
13 A N-I-T-R-A.
14 Q T-R-A. And what's your home address?
15 A Um, 6... I just moved, 661 North Power Line Road.
16 Q Faralon?
17 A Power Line Road.
18 Q Oh Power Line, I'm sorry.
19 A You want my home, home address or..
20 Q No, I need
21 (Inaudible)... all talking)
22 Q Power Line Road?
23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
24
25

1 Q And that's a house or an apartment?
2 A Apartment.
3 Q Okay what's the apartment number?
4 A Six, 61.
5 Q Okay. And um, that's Tallahassee?
6 A No, that's Pompano Beach, Florida.
7 Q Pompano Beach?
8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
9 Q Okay. And what's the zip there please?
10 A Three 3069.
11 Q Three 3069. And what is your home address?
12 A In Tallahassee?
13 Q Yes.
14 A Um, Truth Hall.
15 Q What is it?
16 A Truth Hall.
17 Q Truth Hall?
18 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
19 Q Okay.
20 A Room 400.
21 Q Room 400?
22 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
23 Q Okay and that's on campus?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q Okay. And what is your birth date?

3 A Um, 11/22...

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A ...1990.

6 Q And your cell phone number?

7 A Nine 54...

8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

9 Q ...464?

10 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative) 4527.

11 Q And do you have a home phone number?

12 A Ah, no.

13 Q Okay. So, the Power Line Road is that your parents or...

14 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 Q Okay.

16

17 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

18 Q Okay. Again, I'm Detective Phelan. Um, basically we're trying to determine.. ah,

19 you.. you wrote you're in the percussion section?

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 Q Okay. And you ride "Bus C" normally when we ah, when you travel from.. to and

22 from game is that correct?

23 A Yeah.

24

25

1 Q Yeah got to speak up. We see you nodding, but the tape recorder ain't catching
2 you.
3 A Oh.
4 Q Okay. Ah, so normally you would ride "Bus C" when you're traveling to and from
5 games?
6 A Yes sir..
7 Q Okay. And did you perform or did you try travel to Orlando for the ah, Bethune
8 Cookman game?
9 A Yeah I traveled to, I travel to Orlando for Bethune Cookman. But I didn't ride
10 "Bus C".
11 Q Okay what bus did you ride that day?
12 A I rode bus E.
13 Q Bus E?
14 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
15 Q Okay. And when you got to Orlando did you go to the battle of the bands?
16 A Yeah.
17 Q And...
18 A I went to the battle of the bands.
19 Qand when you went to the battle of the bands did you ride "Bus C" or E?
20 A Ah, I rode "Bus C".
21 Q E?
22 A "C".
23 Q "C", "Bus C".
24
25

1 A Yeah

2 Q Okay. On your return trip from the battle of the bands, was there any extra
3 curricular activity on "Bus C"?

4 A Um...

5 Q That Friday night?

6 A ...Friday night. I guess, yeah.

7 Q Okay, what did you notice happening on "Bus C", that Friday night on the return
8 trip from ah, the battle of the bands?

9 A Um, there were sending people through.

10 Q And do you know the names of the ones they were sending through?

11 A No. I couldn't see.

12 Q Okay. Let me ask you this first and then maybe that'll clear that. You ever
13 crossed over?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay. So, you are not welcome or invited to be involved in the activities that go
16 on?

17 A No.

18 Q And during your ride back from ah, the battle of the bands did you observe more
19 then one person going through this process?

20 A Um, I heard.. I heard two people going through. I didn't know who it was.

21 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

22 Q I'm sorry?

23 A I said I heard two people going through but I didn't know who it was.

1 Q Okay.

2 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

3 Q We're, we're kind ob befogged 'cause you know we, we never been the bus and
4 we're trying to figure out you know you, you on the bus. And there are people
5 getting beaten or whatever on the bus, however they do that. Just from the you
6 know the way people are explaining to us. And the bus driver's driving along
7 right?

8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

9 Q Ah, how I it that ain't everybody hearing it or seeing it? Is it being hidden? Is
10 people standing up around it, what's happening?

11 A Um, it's all the way in the back of the bus so, you really can't hear nothing.

12 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

13 A So, that's it.

14 Q So, the activities are to the rear of the bus?

15 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

16 Q And you have.. have you ever attempted to go through "Bus C" get.. cross over?

17 A I tried.

18 Q Okay what year?

19 A This year.

20 Q You tried this year?

21 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22 Q And what stopped you?

23 A Um, just a mental thing.

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Say what?

3 A It was mental. I didn't...

4 Q It was mental?

5 A Yeah. Like all this stuff they were saying. All the stuff they were saying it was
6 like, I.. I didn't want to go, I didn't want to do it.
7

8 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

9 Q If you.. who arranges those type things?

10 A Who arranges them?

11 Q Do you know who arranges it?

12 A I guess like I think it started from like the, seventies and I guess it been going on.

13 Q No I mean is there a certain person that you would go to and say I want, I want to
14 go through tonight or ...

15 A Oh, yeah.

16 Q Who would that be?

17 A (No verbal response.)

18 Q Come on we already know. (laugh) We already know. Just want, just want to
19 confirm it.
20

21 A Um, um...

22 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

23 Q Who would you go ask?

24 A Dante.
25

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Dante?

3 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

4 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

5 Q Dante Martin?

6 A (No verbal response.)

7 Q Okay. So ah, and what would you ask of him?

8 A Ah, I just, just be like, I want to go through. That's it.

9 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

10 Q Is there any other person you would consider that if Dante wasn't available would
11 be running things?
12

13 A Hm, no.

14 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

15 Q Um, was.. where were you sitting on Friday?

16 A Where.. where was I sitting on Friday?

17 Q On the way back from the battle of the bands to the hotel.

18 A I was sitting in the front of the bus.

19 Q In front of the bus.

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 Q Okay. So, did you see who went to the back of the bus?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay.

24 A 'Cause you can't look, you can't look in the back of the bus. So...

1 Q Okay and um, when did you.. you said this was in 2011..

2 A Y'all talking.. y'all talking about Friday or Saturday

3 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

4 Q Friday.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6 Q Friday night.

7 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

8 Q Friday night in battle of the bands.

9 A That was..

10 Q We're still there.

11 A Oh okay.

12 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

13 Q Yeah we haven't moved to Saturday yet.

14 A Oh.

15 Q So, Friday on the way back to the hotel you're sitting at the front of the bus?

16 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 Q But you heard of two people going through?

18 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19 Q Okay, what was it they were doing while the bus is moving?

20 A Oh the bus wasn't moving then when it was going through. They was at a hotel.

21 Q Okay so you were on the bus when it was doing the cross over while it was
22 parked?

23 A Uh-h

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Q Okay. Well, explain that. What time did that occur?

A After the battle of the bands I don't know what time it was.

Q Roughly. You're back.. so you're back at the hotel.

A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q And the bus is parked.

A Bus is parked.

Q Okay, where's the bus driver?

A The bus driver gone.

Q Okay. The bus driver know what's going on?

A Yeah.

Q How does, how do you that the bus driver knows what.. what is the bus driver.. is it a male or female?

A Is a female.

Q You know what her.. the fe.. her name is?

A Ah, Fabulous Wendy.

Q Fabulous Wendy. (laugh) Okay so what does Fabulous Wendy tell you as she gets off the bus?

A She, she just get off the bus then didn't do nothing.

Q She did.. well tell me is the bus on or what's the deal?

A The bus off.

Q The bus is off. Are the lights on?

A NO.

1 Q No. It's pretty uncomfortable with the bus of isn't it? And hot?
2 A (No verbal response)
3 Q Okay. So, how did you know to be on the bus at that point? Did you leave and
4 come back to the bus? Or did you stay on the bus once they got there?
5 A I just stayed on.
6 Q Okay. 'Cause you knew what was gonna happen?
7 A Yeah.
8 Q You knew the cross over was gonna happen.
9 A I didn't know somebody was about to cross over, but I knew that um, something
10 was gonna happen.
11 Q Okay, so why are you there then?
12 A Huh?
13 Q Why are you there?
14 A Why I was out there?
15 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
16 A 'Cause I was about to go through.
17 Q You were about to go... So...
18 A But I didn't, I didn't do it 'cause I was, I was worried about my own health.
19 Q Okay, tell me what you worried about?
20 A My own health.
21 Q Your own health?
22 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)\
23
24
25

1 Q What, what would concern ... what was it being said to you that you said you
2 didn't want to do it?
3 A Because all of the beating.
4 Q The beating?
5 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
6 Q Who.. well how do you know about the beating? Did they.. somebody...
7 A (Inaudible)...
8 Q ...describe it to you?
9 A Yeah.
10 Q Who described it to you?
11 A It's.. numerous people.
12 Q No that night who described it to you to make you say, I'm not gonna do this?
13 A Oh, just.. just hearing, just hearing it.
14 Q Okay, so, is Dante Martin present when this is going on Friday night?
15 A Ah, I guess so. I think he was.
16 Q No I don't want you to guess. Just tell me yes or no that.. what you know.
17 A Yeah.
18 Q He was there? Okay. So, what.... tell me how it happens? You said that the
19 bus.. what's.. fill us in, tell us the story.
20 A The only thing I say.
21 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
22 A Well the only thing that I know of. I was sitting in the front of the bus.
23 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
24
25

1 A And then they just, they just told me to get, they just told me, put my head down.
2 Q Did you..
3 A And then after that ...
4 Q To put your head down?
5 A Yeah.
6 Q Okay.
7 A Then after that I didn't know what else happened I just hear people getting hit
8 and stuff that's it.
9
10 Q did you get hit?
11 A No.
12 Q Okay so why is your head down?
13 A 'Cause that's, I guess that's the rule on the bus.
14 Q That's the rule on the bus.
15 A Yeah.
16 Q Who told you to put your head down?
17 A Like people on the bus they just told me, they was like, we got to get crash..
18 crash position. So, we got put our head down.
19 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
20 A And nobody else.. we can't see nothing really 'cause our head is like this.
21
22 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
23 Q Okay you're saying we, who was, who was we?
24 A Huh?
25 Q You keep saying we.

1 A All, all the people that didn't cross the bus.

2 Q That didn't make it.

3 A Yeah.

4 Q How, how many would you say were on line to try it that didn't make it Fri.. this
5 Friday night still, right?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Um, about 4 or 5 of us.

9 Q That didn't make it?

10 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 Q How many made it?

12 A How many made it?

13 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14 A Everybody, except for we.

15 Q So, ah, so you.. Okay let's.. let's.. let's.. you, who else?

16 A That's it.

17 Q No I'm saying who else was there getting ready to go through this process with
18 you?

19 A Um, me, um, who else..

20
21 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

22 Q Requesta, listen just tell us what you know. Don't worry about anybody else. All
23 you got to worry about is you telling us the truth okay. You understand how
24 important it is for you tell us the truth right?
25

1 A (No verbal response.)
2 Q So, don't say things that aren't true to cover up for people, to minimize people.
3 Just tell us who is it let us worry about what their involvement's gonna be okay.
4 A (No verbal response.)
5 Q Let's take care of (Inaudible)... alright. Or Laquesta I'm sorry.
6 A Requesta.
7 Q Requesta I'm sorry.
8
9 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
10 Q Go ahead you.
11 A It was me um, my freshman brother.
12 Q What's his name?
13 A Evan.
14 Q Edwin or Evan?
15 A Evan.
16 Q E-V-I-N?
17 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
18 Q Okay.
19 A No, E-V.. E-V-E-N.
20 Q E-V-E-N okay.
21 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
22 Q Okay.
23 A Um, Edwin.
24 Q Edwin.

1 A Ah, Lissett and who else? That was it.

2 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

3 Q Who was the last one? Lissett?

4 A (No verbal response)

5 Q Okay. And it's Edwin..

6 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

7 Q It's Edwin...

8 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

9 Q Rocker?

10 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

11 QEven....

12 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

13 Q Edwin Rocker?

14 A (No verbal response.)

15 Q Okay. And Even, E-V-E-N or E-V-A-N?

16 A E-V-A-N.

17 Q A-N.

18 A Yeah E-V-A-N. Am I bad.

19 Q Okay. And what's his last name?

20 A Ah, Calhoun.

21 Q Calhoun, okay. So, we got you. Evan, Edwin, Blocker and um, or Rocker I'm
22 sorry and Lissett?

23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q What about um, Jamon?

3 A Oh yeah Jamon too.

4 Q Jamon's last name?

5 A I don't know his name. He play something totally different.

6 Q Okay. So, you four are the one.. are those three, those four and you, right?

7 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8 Q And everybody made it but you?

9 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

10 Q Okay. Did you.. how.. how far in the process did you get is what I'm trying to
11 understand. You said they told you put your head down in a crash position. Did
12 they put a blanket over you? Were you covered up.

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. You ...

15 A I just..

16 Q Did you leave at this point or did you stay until all the rest of 'em, finished?

17 A I, I stayed till the rest of 'em finished 'cause we couldn't get off the bus. They
18 wouldn't let nobody off.

19 Q Okay and when you say they wouldn't let anybody off the bus. Do you know
20 anybody who'd stop you from getting off the bus? (Got a phone call) Homicide,
21 Phelan.

22 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

23 Q Who'd you.. you told you, you couldn't off the bus?

1 A I.. I ain't try to get off the bus, but I know they wasn't, they wasn't gonna let me
2 get off the bus.

3 Q Okay. So, if.. if.. if you, if you stood up to get off the bus, who would be the first
4 person that would.. that you know in your mind based on what was going on,
5 would let...

6 A Every...

7 Qyou go off the bus?

8 A Everybody was scattered so, if I tried to get off the bus I don't.. I wouldn't know
9 who would try to tell me not to get off the bus.

10 Q Okay, so how do you know that you couldn't just get off the bus, walk off the
11 bus?

12 A 'Cause I guess that was one of the rules.

13 Q That's one of the rules?

14 A (No verbal response.)

15 Q Okay. And who told you that rule?

16 A Huh?

17 Q Who told you that rule?

18 A Um, they made it clear the first like the first time we ever rode the bus.

19 Q First time you ever rode the bus?

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 Q Okay who.. who made that statement to you?

22 A Um, Dante Martin.

23 Q Dante Martin?

1 A (No verbal response.)

2 Q Okay. And what.. when was this? Was that this year or..

3 | A This year.

4 Q Okay. When in this year?

5 A Um, my first weekend.

Q Which one.. where.. what time was.. when was that?

8 A Um, I don't know when it was but that was the Temple game. I think it was Temple.

Q Temple game?

11 A I think it was Temple or (Inaudible)...

12 Q Okay, so Dante Martin makes this clear in the beginning that ah, you are.. once
13 this process starts nobody can leave the bus. He makes that statement to you?

14 | A Uh..

15 Q Early in the, in the ah, school year?

16 | A Yeah.

17 Q Okay.

18 A But like we could get, we could get off the bus and get on another bus if we want.

(DETECTIVE PHELAN)

Q No, I'm saying... what we're saying when the process start.

A Oh.

Q We're, what we're talking about is the process.

24 | A Okay.

1 Q We're not talking about all the regular (Inaudible)... from the other day. When
2 the process start are you told if you're part of the process you can't get off the
3 bus until it's done?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay.

6 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

7 Q Okay did you get.. when you say you didn't make it through the process. There..
8 so did anything happen to you? Did you get any part of it?

9 A Um..

10 Q Do you, do you know what the hot seat is?

11 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

12 Q What's the hot seat?

13 A A, 'cause you get, you get a beat for like um, like a minute or so.

14 Q So, you get beat for about a minute or so?

15 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

16 Q And how does...

17 A In the hot seat.

18 Qdid you get beat on Friday?

19 A No, Saturday.

20 Q Saturday you got beat?

21 A Yeah. Before the game.

22 Q Before the game.

23 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 Q Okay let's, let's.. we'll get to Saturday in a minute. Let's finish with Friday. Friday
2 were you suppose to get beat?

3 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

4 Q No.

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. So, what were you suppose do Friday? Why were you on the bus Friday,
7 during this crossing?

8 A Because that's the bus that I rode back to the hotel.

9 Q Okay.

10 A The, the us you rode, rode back o the hotel. They're not gonna let you off the
11 bus.
12

13 Q This is per Dante?

14 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15 Q Okay. Until this process is over?

16 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 Q Okay. And in this process who do you see... you saw these people that you just
18 mentioned. Did they get the hot seat?

19 A What ah, these people right here?

20 Q Evan, Edwin, Lissett and Jamon?

21 A Yeah they...

22 Q Friday night.

23 A They got a hot seat like ah, like riding back to the hotel they got a hot seat.

24 That's the only time I saw them. And then when they went through ...
25

1 Q The through being the crossing?
2 A Yeah.
3 Q And that was when the bus was parked?
4 A Yeah.
5 Q Okay. Did you witness.. you.. the, the ah, the hot seat on the ride back?
6 A No.
7 Q Okay. When the bus is parked you're ah, you.. do you see them...
8 A I'm.. I'm...
9 Q Huh?
10 A I'm down like this.
11 Q You're down like that?
12 A Yeah.
13 Q Okay. Who was on the bus when that was going on? Who do you recall being
14 on the bus when the crossing was going on?
15 A (Inaudible)... everybody.
16 Q (laugh) Okay. Yeah.. I.. I need know by name, who's everybody?
17 A Just about everybody that's on the roster.
18 Q Okay. Well, who do you recall? I just need to know who you recall, when you
19 put your head down and the crossing started, who was on the bus?
20 A Um, who did I hear?
21 Q Yes. Who did you hear that you know that that was the person that you could
22 say, um, I knew they were on the bus by their voice?
23 A Um, I heard um, um, Darryl.
24
25

1 Q Darryl.. Green?
2 A Sornel.
3 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
4 Q Sornel.
5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
6 Q Oh Sornel, okay.
7 A Um, who else I heard? Ah, Sherry/
8 Q LaSherry?
9 A Yeah.
10 Q Okay.
11 A Um, ah, Henry.
12 Q Who, Henry?
13 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
14 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
15 Q Nesbit?
16 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative) Um, Brianna.
17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
18 Q Brianna?
19 A Yeah.
20 Q Who, who's Brianna?
21 A I don't know her last name.
22 Q Is she ah, was she on "Bus C"?
23 A She.. sh.. she rides "Bus C".. or that she rode "Bus C" that night.

1 Q What position she play?

2 A She, she not even in band no more.

3 Q She's not even in the band?

4 A She's not in the band no more.

5 Q Okay, that night was she in the band?

6 A No. She just rode the bus.

7 Q When did she stop being in the band?

8 A Last year.

9 Q Last year.

10 A Last fall.

11 Q Last fall. Okay. And what's her last name?

12 A I don't know her last name.

13 Q You know what.. how do you spell her first name?

14 A Brianna?

15 Q Yeah.

16 A I guess B-R.. B-R-I-A-N-A I guess.

17 Q Is she a black or white female?

18 A She black.

19 Q Black female. So, what is, what's she doing on the bus? Or who is.. what's her

20 connection?

21 A I guess 'cause she in, she in.. used to be in percussion and she on "Bus C". I

22 guess she can ride the bus.

23 Q Did she ride down with you from the school?

24

25

1 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
2 Q On "Bus C"?
3 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
4 Q Because I don't see her name on the list.
5 A I know. And she would just ..
6 Q You know. (laugh) You know her name wasn't on the list?
7 A Yeah I know her name wasn't on the list, but..
8 Q How do you know.
9 A ...I guess she just got on the bus and went on in to Orlando with us.
10 Q So, she.. she came all the way from.. she.. she got on the buses here in
11 Tallahassee?
12 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
13 Q Where...
14 A She wasn't..
15 Qwell who'd she.. I sorry go ahead.
16 A She wasn't even suppose to be on the bus/.Q (laugh)
17 A I don't know why she got on it anyway.
18 Q Okay. Okay, do you know where she stayed? Did she stay at the hotel?
19 A Ah, I don't know.
20 Q Okay.
21 A I have no idea I just saw her on the bus.
22 Q Do you know who ah... how would I get in touch with her? You got, you got her
23 cell number by chance?
24
25

1 A No I don't even talk to her.

2 Q Will she... Okay. Who would be her friend?

3 A Hm...

4 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

5 Q Is she considered an upper classman?

6 A Yeah.

7 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

8 Q And you know why she's not in the... is she a student here anymore?

9 A I think she a student.

10 Q And why isn't she in the band anymore?

11 A I don't know. I have no idea. I don't really.. I don't really know her like that.

12 Q Okay. No, I was just wondering what... you know that she wasn't suppose to be
13 on the bus and I'm...

14 A Yeah.

15 Q ...just wondering if you know why.

16 A Oh no, I don't know why.

17 Q Okay. Okay so that ah, what did you hear Darryl um, say?

18 A He was just like, come on, come on, come on.

19 Q So. would that be encouraging?

20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21 Q Do you know who that was to?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. How about LaSherry, what was she saying?

1 A She was.. everybody was like encouraging them to go ..
2 Q To make the crossing?
3 A Yeah.
4 Q Okay. Did you hear anything else as to anybody say, stop ah, any problem..
5 anybody having any problems?
6 A Huh-ah. (Negative)
7 Q Anybody get hurt?
8 A No.
9 Q Anybody throw up?
10 A No.
11 Q Anybody pass out?
12 A No.
13 Q Okay. Now...
14 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
15 Q Okay.
16 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)
17 Q ...Saturday. Okay.
18 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
19 Q Okay. Now we gonna move forward to Saturday okay. You went to the game.
20 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
21 Q You preformed.
22 A Huh-ah. (Negative)
23 Q You didn't perform?

1 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

2 Q Okay. Did you ride back, ride to the game on what bus?

3 A I rode to the game on "Bus C". But I rode back on bus E.

4 Q Okay. So, you rode back on bus E?

5 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

6 Q Did.. after you got back to the hotel did you find your way to "Bus C"?

7 A No.

8 Q You never went to "Bus C" that night?

9 A No, I went straight to my room and went to sleep.

10 Q Did you know any of the other guys were gonna be crossing over that night on

11 "Bus C"?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Who did you know what gonna be crossing..

14 A Um...

15 QSaturday night?

16 A ...Robert, Keyon...

17 Q When did you.. did you notice before you went to your room?

18 A Huh?

19 Q Did you notice before you went to your room?

20 A Ah, no.

21 Q You found this out later?

22 A Yeah.

23

24

25

1 Q Okay. Ah, but you since known, you since heard that Robert, Keyon and who
2 else went through?

3 A Um, Lissett.

4 Q Lissett.

5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

6 Q I'm.. I'm confused. Did you know when you came back to the hotel that those
7 three were gonna be doing it?

8 A No.

9 Q Is that... the word on the bus?

10 A When I, when I came.. when I came.. when they got off the bus that's when I
11 heard that they went through.

12 Q They were, they went through?

13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q After (Inaudible)...

15 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

16 Q Once they get off the bus?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Okay. And you're talking about not when they returned to the hotel, but when the
19 process is done?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay.

22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Okay well how'd you find that out if you're in your room?

1 A 'Cause they told me they called me.

2 Q Oh they called you.

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Okay. Is there a reason why you just.. you last night of this that you hid out in
5 your room?

6 A No, the whole year I just.. I been getting on and off, on and off 'cause I was, I
7 was like I want to do it, but then I don't want to do it the whole year.

8 Q So, would... you're going up to your room after this, even though these other
9 people were gonna be doing this ah, crossing. The possibility of you doing a
10 crossing?

11

12 A When I got off, when I got off bus E I went straight to my room, went to sleep.
13 And then Lissett came, Lissett came and she went through. And then like I think
14 like 30 minutes later or some.. they said that ah, Robert went to the hospital.

15 Q So, did Lissett come and tell you?

16 A No, she didn't tell me.

17 Q Okay.

18 A I just sensed it 'cause her eyes was watery and stuff.

19 Q Huh?

20 A I said I just sensed it 'cause her eyes was watery

21 Q Okay so...

22 Alike she was crying.

23 Q But she come to your room?

24 A Yeah she stay in... we were..

25

1 Q Oh so you guys are staying together?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q Oh okay. Alright. So, what time did she get back to your room?

4 A Like a hour after the game. Well, after we got to the hotel like a hour.

5 Q What time did you get to the hotel? Roughly.

6 A Ahhh, what time the game was over? Probably like, we got to the hotel around

7 like probably 11 I think. I don't know.

8 Q Well, tell me this. When Lissett came to your room, what did she.. first thing she

9 told you?

10

11 A she ain't... she didn't say nothing I just saw that she was crying. And then I...

12 Q She was crying?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q And did you ask her why she was crying?

15 A No, because I already knew.

16 Q What'd you know?

17 A I already.. that they um, that she went through.

18 Q You know anything about Robert?

19 A No. I didn't know..

20 Q When did you find out about6 Robert?

21

22 A I didn't know about Robert until like 30 minutes after Lissett came in the room,

23 when they said, when somebody called Lissett and told her that he went to the

24 hospital.

25 Q So, she didn't know.

1 A She didn't know neither.

2 Q Oh, I thought she knew when she came up and she told you.

3 A She didn't tell me.

4 Q No?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay maybe I..

7 A She...

8 Q ... got it wrong then. Okay so she just comes up.. Now why is she crying is she,

9 is she not feeling well?

10

11 A No she was crying because she went through that night.

12 Q So, so she's not feeling well.

13 A No, she...

14 Q Or is she happy?

15 A No, she was, she.. I guess they beat her.

16 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17 A To go.. to touch the back of the bus and then she got off. I guess she was

18 crying, it hurt.

19 Q It hurt?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Did she describe anything to you? She talk to you about it?

22

23 A Yeah she talked to me about it, but she was like ah, they was holding her feet so,

24 she couldn't really touch the back of the bus and stuff like that.

25 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 A That's it.

2 Q She say who was holding her feet?

3 A No.

4 Q No.

5 A She couldn't see 'cause the bus was dark.

6 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative) Did she um, did she get sick while she was up in your
7 room?

8 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

9 Q Did she ah, she need to go to the hospital or anything you think?

10 A (No verbal response.)

11 Q No.

12 A No.

13 Q She didn't throw up or anything?

14 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

15 Q No. Okay.

16
17 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

18 Q What made you decide, you're on "Bus C" on a Friday night, you go to your
19 room. You travel to the game on "Bus C", but you come back on bus E. Why'd
20 you make that decision?

21 A Because I was, I was scared. I, I didn't want to um, I didn't want to get on "Bus
22 C".

23 Q Why were you scared? Did somebody tell you that was gonna happen,
24 somebody say it's your turn or what?
25

1 A Yeah it was, it was my turn, but I was like, I don't want, I didn't want to do it.

2 Q Who told you it was your turn to be ah...

3 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

4 Q Cross over.

5 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

6 Q ...crossed over?

7 A Ah, Dante Martin.

8 Q Dante told you directly?

9 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

10 Q It's your turn?

11 A Yeah he just tap my shoulder told me to go to the back.

12 Q And you got off the bus and went to bus E?

13 A Yeah.

14 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

15 Q What did he say to you did that?

16 A Huh?

17 Q What did he ... Dante say to you when you did that?

18 A He just told me to go to the back. And then I got my hot sheet and then after that
19 got off the bus. That's.. this before the game. Before the game started.

20 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

21 Q Okay before the game...

22 A Before the game.

23 Q ...you're on "Bus C".

1 A Yeah.

2 Q Taps you on the shoulder, it's your turn.

3 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

4 Q You go to...

5 A Went to...

6 Q ...the back of the bus?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q You receive a hot sea.

9 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

10 Q Tell us what happened.

11 A In the hot seat ah, they put the blanket over my head and I was like, in crash

12 position. And then they start beating me. Then I couldn't, I couldn't breath so, I

13 got up. And then I ran to the front. And then after that we got off the bus and

14 was about to unload the truck. Unload the bus, unload the trucks and then I

15 started eating and next thing you know I was sitting on the, on the stairs. And

16 then I was about to strap up, put on my drum and I was feeling dizzy and woozy.

17 And I was talking to, I was talking to Harry and next thing yo know I just, I

18 blanked out and fell on him. And I was feeling really dizzy. I guess I was

19 dehydrated or surprised. I don't know what it was. And then I just sat out for the

20 rest of the game. And then after the game I rode bus E.

21

22

23 Q Okay. So, do you remember who was hitting you under the blanket?

24 A No I...

25 Q What type ...

1 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2 A In the seat. And they just, threw quilt over my head.

3 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

4 Q Where are you being hit at?

5 A Huh?

6 Q Where you being hit at?

7 A In the back.

8 Q On the back.

9 A Yeah.

10 Q How many times you think you were hit in your back?

11 A Ah, numerous times.

12 Q Numerous times. More then ten?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q More then 20?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q More then 30?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Okay. In those licks in your back how hard were they to you? If you had to judge
19 them were they like...(making hitting sound) Or were they... (harder sound)
20

21 A That was... hard.

22 Q Hard.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q Hit the table as hard as you would think you were getting hit.

1 A (Hitting table hard) Hard.

2 Q You got that at least 30 times? What's the most ..

3 A Probably more then, more then 30.

4 Q You tell me the number. How many times do you think that you got hit that night?

5 A It feel like probably 2 or 300 times.

6 Q Two or 3 hundred..

7 A Ah...

8 Q ...times?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q How long did this last?

11 A That... I guess they say it's suppose to last for a minute.

12 Q Okay. And it's non-stop hitting?

13 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14

15 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

16 Q Clarify, that's Saturday morning right?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q When?

19 A Before the game.

20

21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

22 Q So, you were at the game.

23 A Yeah I was...

24 Q In the parking lot?

25 A No, no, no.

1 Q You're on the bus riding?

2 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

3 Q Right.

4 A Yeah.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6 Q Okay.

7 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

8 Q Yeah the hot seats, while you riding in the.

9 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

10 Q From the hotel to the game Saturday?

11 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

12 Q Got you.

13 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

14 Q And once you, once you take your beating. You're good, you to the front. Does
15 anybody pat you on the back you made it, you did it?

16 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

17 Q That's, that's (Inaudible)...

18 A That's just

19 Q ...(Inaudible)...

20 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

21 Q Anybody acknowledge you?

22 A That's just the hot seat.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q That's the first part.

3 A That's the first...

4 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

5 Q Okay.

6 Aprocess.

7 Q So, now you done that. Now you know you have to go through cross over.

8 A Yeah. I think ah, you get 3 hot seats. They give you 3 hot seats.

9 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

10 Q Why?

11 (SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)

12 Q Three chances to make it through or 3 total hot seats?

13 A Three, 3 hot seats within the whole year.

14 Q How many you been through?

15 A One. It...

16 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

17 Q And then you can do the ...

18 A (Inaudible)...

19 Q ...crossing?

20 A Huh?

21 Q And then you can do the crossing?

22 A Yeah 3 hot seats and then the crossing.

23 Q Okay, so you got a total of 4 things you have to accomplice?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q Before you are into.. And what is this, is this a status? What happens when you

3 completed this? What are you considered at that point? You accepted?

4 A Yes, get.. yeah. Get your own bus seat.

5 Q Your own bus seat.

6 A And then I guess they respect you more. I guess.

7 Q And is the 3, the 3 hot seats would be the same thing a minute of hitting?

8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

9 Q And then um, the crossing would be... So, you.. you were gonna, your next thing

10 was not gonna be crossing, would've been another hot seat wouldn't it?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And that's what you were scared of?

13 A Yeah. And I was like, no I can't do this. So, I just got on another bus.

14

15 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

16 Q When you were in the class (Inaudible)... and being punch and hit in the back.

17 Were you ever hit in your sides or anywhere else?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q Okay. So, you been hit, hitting on you.. you get hit on your shoulders. The only

20 thing that they're saying is off limits is your head?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Did you get hit in your head even though they say it was off limits?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you feel like you got hit...

25

1 A I was...

2 Qwith ...

3 A I was like, I was in crash position, but I didn't have my arms in outside. I had my

4 arms in the inside.

5 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

6 A So, the only thing they could hit is my back. But they hit my sides.

7 Q Sides and back.

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Okay.

10

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q Did they hit your kidneys?

13 A No.

14 Q No.

15 A Huh-ah. (Negative)

16 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

17 Q Okay. Ah... did you feel like maybe you were hit with anything other then a fist?

18 A What, other then a fist? Yeah. Ah...

19 Q Drum stick?

20 A ...drum sticks.

21 Q So, you feel like you were hit with drum sticks?

22 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

23 Q Like... (make hitting sound) this?

24 A Yeah.

25

1 Q Or like that? (another hitting sound)
2 A Like that.
3 Q (hitting sound)
4 A Yeah.
5 Q Okay. And when you... what we're.. for the tape you're describing they hit with
6 the drum sticks like they were playing a drum?
7 A Yeah.
8 Q Not.. not..
9 A Not, not...
10 Q ...put the..
11 A ...not stabbing.
12 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)
13 Q Not the pointing end?
14 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)
15 Q Yeah.
16 A No, not, not the stabbing just...
17 Q Not the stabbing motion, but a ...
18 A Yeah.
19 Q ...drum stroke like?
20 A Yeah.
21 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)
22 Q How hard.. did that hurt?
23 A Not really.
24
25

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Stings.

3 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

4 Q Did it sting a little?

5 A Yeah it sting.

6 Q It was meant to sting though?

7 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8 Q Alright. Okay. And when you said you stopped at the, when you got to the
9 hotel.. I mean to the game. You said you just got up and ran 'cause you felt you
10 couldn't breath anymore?

11 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

12 Q Did.. were you able to leave all the way off the bus?

13 A Nah, I just went to my seat.

14 Q You just went up to your seat?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q What did Wendy say to you when you got back to your seat?

17 A Oh, Wendy, Wendy was driving.

18 Q Weren't you sitting next to Wendy?

19 A No, I wasn't all the way in the front.

20 Q Oh okay.

21 A It's like..

22 Q Okay good..

23 A ...like 3 seats away from the front.

1 Q Does Wendy knows what's going on at this point?

2 A Ah, I guess. They said she know about everything.

3 Q Did she say anything to you afterwards?

4 A No.

5 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

6 Q Okay. Um, is there anything that we didn't ask you that you think is important
7 that we should know about what the activities that go on "Bus C"?

8 A No y'all asked everything.

9 Q Huh?

10 A Y'all asked..

11 Q We asked about everything?

12 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

13 Q Okay. Do you.. Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and/or affirm that
14 everything you said in this tape is the truth, the whole truth?

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q Okay. Time is now... I got..

17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q About ah, 12:50.

19 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

20 Q The time is 12:50 and that will conclude this interview. We appreciate it thank
21 you for coming in.

22 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

23 Q I want to take a picture with (Inaudible)...

1 A Huh?

2 Q Will you take a picture?

3 A Take a picture?

4 Q To (Inaudible)...

5 A I don't know what...

6 Q Or do you want this old one that's got your hair all pulled back?

7

8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q We want to get an updated one. I like your hair.

10 A That's my I.D.

11 Q That's her I.D.

12 A (Inaudible)...

13 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

14 Q Thank you.

15 A I can see that picture?

16 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

17 Q I think you were smiling. It has your eyes open. No read eye.

18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q How old are you?

20 A I just turned 21.

21 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**

22 Q It's better now.

23 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

24 Q Okay and you're a student here right?

25

1 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
2 Q You're currently a stud... Okay thank you.
3 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
4 Q They picked everybody up here out on class.
5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
6 Q Got you.
7 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**
8 Q Okay.
9 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
10 Q Thank you again.
11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
12 Q Okay thanks for your help.
13 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
14 **(SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN)**
15 Q Thank you.
16 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
17 Q You walk around. Fo out this door?
18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
19 Q Right.
20 A Can I get a ride back to campus?
21 Q Ah, lets see who we got...
22 (Inaudible)...
23 Q This is considered on campus?
24
25

1 A That's a long walk.

2 Q Oh it's a long walk.

3 (left)

4
5
6
7
8 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

9 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

10
11 

12 DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF LANAUDE KEON HOLLIS**

2 **DETECTIVE VOYLES**

3 **CASE NUMBERS 11-101834**

4
5 **This is Detective Voyles with Detective Phelan and Investigator Cotton and we are**
6 **speaking to uh, Lanay**

7 A Lanaude.

8 Q Lanaude Keon Hollis. Lanaude is spelled L A N A U D E. Keon is K E O N,
9 Hollis, H O L L I S. Um, Keon, what's your birthday?

10 A Um, December 19, 1989.

11 Q And what's your phone number?

12 A 678-234-0626.

13 Q Is this your cell phone?

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q You have another phone that we could get in touch with you if you don't have
16 that?

17 A No sir.

18 Q Okay, um, do you swear or affirm that everything you tell us today will be the
19 truth?

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Okay. Take it.

22 **(Detective Phelan)**

23 Q Okay, um, your...

24 **(Detective Voyles)**

1 Q Oh, hold on sorry. It is uh, 9:43 hours on November 22, 2011. We are at FAMU
2 Law Enforcement Department in Tallahassee.

3 **(Detective Phelan)**

4 Q And what we're doing here, we're looking into the death of Robert. We're trying
5 to find out exactly what happened. Uh, there is, as you know, the media is
6 reporting a lot of stuff that a lot of people running their mouth that wasn't there.
7 So we're trying to find out from people that were there exactly what happened.
8 Uh, and we want to see if we can ask you some questions pertaining to it. Okay.
9 Uh, and you um, on the night that this happened, you were in the, you came
10 back from the game in the limo.

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q Okay, who all was in the limo with you?

13 A It was all of the drum majors. Um Dr. White, his wife and his nephew and son.

14 Q And when you'all got back to the uh, hotel, where did you go?

15 A Um, when I got back to the hotel, I went back to my room and I changed clothes.

16 Q Okay. And was that a, what most of the drum major did?

17 A Um, yes sir.

18 Q And did you'all have any scheduled meetings after the uh, you got back to the
19 hotel?

20 A No sir.

21 Q And did you ever meet up with Robert after he got back to the hotel?

22 A Yes sir, we're roommates. We both went to the room.

23 Q That's right. Yes, I saw you there. Yeah. Okay, so you'all went to the room. Did
24 you at any point and Robert leave and go back to the area of the busses.

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Okay, now. This would have been, 'cause you go to your hotel around 8:30 p.m.
2 This would have been between 9 and 9:30 or something around there.
3 A Yes sir.
4 Q Okay, and when you, which busses did you'all go to?
5 A Um, we went back to Bus C.
6 Q Bus C?
7 A Yes sir.
8 Q And when you got to Bus C, who was there?
9 A Um, it was a lot of people. It was really dark on the bus. I couldn't really make
10 out faces, but I know it was a lot of people. It had to be at least maybe like 15
11 people. Like a lot.
12 Q And when you'all went to the bus, what was the purpose of boarding the bus?
13 A Um, we went to the bus. The purpose of us going to the bus was to complete
14 this process that we were doing.
15 Q And were you aware that Robert was up to becoming the next drum major? How
16 many people were aware of that?
17 A I didn't know that.
18 Q You didn't know?
19 A That, that was news to us.
20 Q It was news to you guys?
21 A Yes.
22 Q Okay.
23 A 'Cause that's something that they usually hold until the end of the year.
24 Q And was there any speculation of it? You'all have any idea of that?
25 A No sir.

1 Q What, I understand that Robert, from talking to, talking to adults and people that
2 were around him, and even talks to you guys that night, that Robert wasn't one to
3 be into that type of activity.

4 A No, that, it really was against everything like he believed in. He would have, he
5 wasn't really for it. So he was, he was just really a good person. He wasn't really
6 like, he wasn't really with everything that was going on.

7 **(Detective Voyles)**

8 Q Why, why was he against it? I mean.

9 A It's just the type of person he is. He's just, that's just how he was as a person.

10 **(Detective Phelan)**

11 Q Okay, so once you get to the bus, there's a lot of people there that you couldn't
12 really make out who they were.

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Okay, were you able to make out any of the people there?

15 A Um, it was kinda dark. I couldn't really, I as kind of tired. I couldn't really see. I
16 had, had took like a shot before I went down there so I couldn't really tell. It was
17 like really, really dark, like pitch black.

18 Q Um hum.

19 A 'Cause like the bus was kinda like...(overtalking).

20 Q Let me ask you this...(overtalking).

21 A ...the shaded area.

22 Q Why was the bus, did someone get the bus driver to leave the bus open or?

23 A I don't know.

24 Q You don't know, okay. How did, how did you'all know where to go then?

25 A Um, we just walked down, we just walked down to the bus.

1 Q And was there a text, was there any talk? Anybody getting phone calls. Say
2 come to this bus.

3 A There wasn't any text. It was just, we just met down there. We just went down
4 there.

5 Q Okay, no discussion before?

6 A No, we just went down there.

7 Q Okay.

8 **(Detective Voyles)**

9 Q How was the, how was the, how was it planned out if you knew that he was going
10 down there for that, for Yousef to complete the process, how did you guys know
11 to go there then?

12 A 'Cause we just. Soon as the game was over, we just went to your room. We
13 changed our clothes and we went back.

14 Q So is that, is that the normal process. That as soon as the game is over, you
15 guys, if you're gonna have, if you're gonna do the process you got to go do it
16 there after the game.

17 A Yes sir.

18 **(Detective Phelan)**

19 Q So is it what you consider it a ritual type thing.

20 A No, it wasn't, it's not really a ritual type thing.

21 **(Detective Voyles)**

22 Q Tradition?

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q I don't like that word ritual either, tradition.

25 **(Detective Phelan)**

1 Q So everybody basically knows that if he wants to go through the process, it's
2 available at the end. Is it only this game or is it any game?

3 A This, really this game.

4 Q Right. That's why we're here. Okay, so he uh, he decides he gonna go ahead
5 and get through the process and you get on the bus. What, explain the process
6 itself on the bus. How it occurs.

7 A Basically, get on the bus and you have to um, take your shirt off and you
8 basically have to make it from the front of the bus to the back of the bus.

9 Q Okay, and when you say make it, that means run through the aisle.

10 A Yes sir.

11 Q Or walk fast.

12 A Just get through as quick as you can.

13 Q And is that the reason why they have you take your shirt off?

14 A I don't know the reason.

15 Q Okay. So you start at the front and go to the back. You make it to the back, it's
16 over.

17 A It's over.

18 **(Detective Voyles)**

19 Q Is there any, any set of rules that they're not gonna, you know, you know how
20 when you're sparring, you know no head shots, no nothing like that. Is there
21 anything like that they say, is there, is there gonna be a free for all from front to
22 back you're gonna get hit as many times as you can. Where ever.

23 A Um, it's, I don't think it's really (inaudible) I wasn't there...(overtalking).

24 Q Would you run, would you run through it like this?
25

1 A Yeah, I was like protecting myself, just trying to make sure that I was protected. I
2 didn't know about any rules. I just know that this is what you do.

3 Q Did you go first?

4 A No, I went second. I didn't go first.

5 Q Who went first?

6 A It was a girl. I just know it was a girl.

7 Q How many, how many people went through it?

8 A 3.

9 Q 3. It's a girl, you and Robert.

10 A Robert.

11 Q You don't know who the girl was?

12 A No sir.

13 Q Was, you don't know what, you know what instrument she played?

14 A Um, um, she might have played percussion.

15 Q Okay.

16 **(Detective Phelan)**

17 Q In your estimation, when report went through, were you back on the bus?

18 A I was on the back of the bus. I had just finished. I was on the back trying to
19 regain like myself, my composure because I was out of it myself. I was really like
20 weak. You know, kind of like out of breath and I was just trying to like regain
21 myself. I was sitting in the back the whole time.

22 Q Okay, so, uh, what are they. Are they hitting you with hands? Or is there any
23 other, anything else introduced? What I'm saying is, are they using belts?

24 A They was, they was using hands, um, straps, think saw a comb.

25 **(Detective Voyles)**

1 Q Comb?

2 A Yeah, I saw a comb.

3 Q Like a big orange comb?

4 A Yes sir. The sticks.

5 Q Sticks, any open hand slaps or punches?

6 A Open. Kicks.

7 Q Kicks.

8 **(Detective Phelan)**

9 Q And this uh, in your estimation, how long would it take, did it take, did it get from
10 the front to the back? Matter of minutes?

11 A Honestly, I can't tell you 'cause there was so much going on. I was just trying to
12 make it to the back. I couldn't tell you exact time length.

13 **(Detective Voyles)**

14 Q Is it a fight to the back? Like you have to push your way through it?

15 A Yes sir.

16 Q People blocking and you're trying to get through them as you get hit?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q People close to the front or in the back? Or everywhere?

19 A Everywhere.

20 Q Add too everything.

21 A Like, like everywhere, they just. A bunch of people. It's like a, it's like...

22 **(Detective Phelan)**

23 Q Free fall.

24 A Yeah, basically. You just gotta make it to the back.

25 **(Detective Voyles)**

1 Q Did you get any injuries?

2 A Um, no I didn't get any injuries. Just a couple back problems, like just pains, but
3 not severe. Like severe.

4 **(Detective Phelan)**

5 Q Do you know who threw up in the parking lot?

6 A Um, I threw up in the parking lot.

7 Q And Robert, when he started through it, you wasn't there.

8 A I wasn't there. I got off the bus. Soon as I finished, I got off the bus and I walked
9 to the room and I layed down.

10 **(Detective Voyles)**

11 Q Is there an exit in the back of the bus?

12 A No sir.

13 Q Once you went through it, they let you walk through back out?

14 A Once I, once I finished it was all done. Everything was done. I got off the bus.

15 **(Detective Phelan)**

16 Q Yeah, what he's saying though is did you exit through the back door or did they
17 let you through out the front?

18 A Oh, through the front.

19 Q And you didn't get hit on the way back out?

20 A No sir.

21 Q Just, you walked out ...

22 A It was done.

23 Q Clapping.

24 A Yes sir.

25 Q Hooting and hollering?

1 A Yes sir.

2 **(Detective Phelan)**

3 Q And what is the reason for this?

4 A Um.

5 Q This particular, does it have a name, does it?

6 A It's, it's, I mean, it's not really a, just like he said, it's tradition. Just something.

7 Q But you're accepted as being.

8 A It's like an acceptance type of thing.

9 **(Detective Voyles)**

10 Q And is it just particular to this bus?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q Okay, which bus is this? I mean, what's so special about this bus? Who's on it?

13 A This the percussion bus.

14 Q Okay. The reason I ask, the little I know about bands, 'cause I wasn't in one.

15 The only thing I know is from Drumline.

16 A Um hum.

17 Q The drums, the percussions seem to be the biggest part of the band.

18 A Yes sir.

19 Q So that's where you need to get respect from.

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Become the leader of that (inaudible)...is that the reason you went through it?

22 A Yes sir.

23 Q And the reason you think that the girl went through the percussion?

24 A Think so.

25 Q Because you don't, I don't, I don't see a lot of girls in the drum line either, so.

1 A Yeah, I think, I think it like you do it for like acceptance, to be accepted and like
2 the to gain the respect of your peers. It's one of those type of things.
3 Q You're, you're a drum major, right?
4 A Yes sir.
5 Q So you know everybody in the band don't you?
6 A For the most part, yeah.
7 Q I'm sorry, but you would know everybody in the percussion area don't you?
8 A Yes sir.
9 Q So what's the name of that girl? Keon, you're not doing, you not doing anybody
10 a disservice. We just need to talk to her. We need to make sure she's okay too.
11 A Lissette.
12 Q Lissette?
13 A Um hum.
14 Q Okay. You know her last name?
15 A No sir.
16 Q Okay. But Dr. White will know it if I say Lissette?
17 A Yes sir.
18 Q Okay. Did uh, did you watch Lissette go through?
19 A No sir.
20 Q So it's pretty much you standing in line.
21 A Yes sir.
22 Q Goes in and comes back on out. She came back out. When she came back out
23 what did she look like? She's like, you... (inaudible)(overtalking).
24
25

1 A I didn't see, I didn't see her when she come out. You go to the back and you
2 wait. Everybody waits until everybody's done. While you wait, and then when
3 you get the back you wait until everybody's done.

4 Q She, so she went before you and you got to the back, how was she doing?

5 A I, I don't know. I was...(overtalking).

6 Q You were pretty much worried about you.

7 A Yeah, I was woozy. I was kinda dizzy. Soon as I got to the back, I sat in the seat
8 and I was just sitting there the whole time, just looking.

9 Q Okay. You do any of um, martial arts or fighting or anything like that?

10 A Um, no just work out from time to time.

11 Q You ever, you ever boxed?

12 A No sir.

13 Q Alright. So you never been in a fight, fight.

14 A I mean fights at high school, but not like.

15 Q Now who is it that you're talking about. Is that because you got hit in the head a
16 bunch of times?

17 A It was just. Just from like everything. It wasn't really so much like just from being
18 hit in the head. It was so much because it was so many people.

19 Q Right.

20 A And there was just so much going on at one time it just made me weak like. It
21 was like going to...(overtalking).

22 Q Like kinda like, kinda like a adrenalin dump and everything and there's, you got
23 through it, you're done.

24 A Um hum, and it was like just trying to like regain myself.

25 Q Were you scared before you got in there?

1 A No, not really. I wasn't really scared. I was just more so ready to just get it over
2 with.

3 **(Detective Phelan)**

4 Q Okay, a couple more quick questions. Uh, there was mentioned that uh, Robert
5 dropped his mace during the, the activity. Do you know anything?

6 A No, 'cause I stand on the complete opposite side of the field.

7 Q Who is Dr. James?

8 A Dr. James is the percussion instructor.

9 Q Okay, was he there?

10 A No sir.

11 Q When did you talk with him? Did you talk to him?

12 A I didn't, I didn't talk to James at all.

13 Q What was the other guy's name? (Inaudible)

14 A Mr. Holloway? No, he wasn't there. I didn't see him leaving.

15 **(Detective Voyles)**

16 Q Um, I'm, I know that when you went through it, did you have you eyes closed or
17 were you open, you're eyes open, trying to get to the back?

18 A I was just trying to get to the back. My eyes were open but it was dark so I
19 couldn't really see.

20 Q Do you know where they got all the stuff that they were using to hit you guys
21 with?

22 A Honestly, I don't know. When I got on the bus, I just saw stuff on there already.

23 Q Was it in like a bag or was it just piled up?

24 A It was just on the bus. It was.

25 **(Detective Phelan)**

1 Q I have nothing else to say. Can you think of anything else uh, that happened or
2 that we need to know about that wasn't... I know that they're saying he threw up.
3 That you, that the outside of the bus you had thrown up.

4 A Yes sir. I didn't, I didn't see anything that happened after the whole process
5 because once I was done and he was finished, everything was fine. And I got off
6 the bus and I walked to my room. Then that's when I got the call from the other
7 guys.

8 Q So you don't know if he made it through and got off the bus.

9 A Well, he's...

10 Q And fell out or.

11 A He made it through. He made it through to the back and he was fine. 'Cause I
12 remember, he, he asked me, he's like man, I need something to drink. And I had
13 a bottle of water and I gave it to him.

14 Q Um hum.

15 A And that was it. And I just got off the bus.

16 **(Detective Voyles)**

17 Q Did you, did he need help getting through?

18 A Yeah, he, he got help.

19 Q Did you get help?

20 A I got help too.

21 Q Okay, who helped you through?

22 A The drum majors. They, they pulled, they, that's their job to help us.

23 Q The drum majors, so the drum, so the other drum, who are the drum majors that
24 helped you?

25 A It was Jerad and Ricot.

1 **(Detective Phelan)**

2 Q Were they trying to help you on get on through it.?

3 A Yes sir.

4 **(Detective Voyles)**

5 Q And they've, they've already gone through it themselves.

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q Is, is, that, they pushed him through, they pull him through, how they do that?

8 A Both, just trying to help you get...

9 **(Detective Phelan)**

10 Q Any kind of way they can.

11 A Any kind of way they can help you. That's their job, is to help us.

12 **(Detective Voyles)**

13 Q Are they getting hit at the same time?

14 A I believe they were getting hit, 'cause they were trying to help us. They was
15 literally trying to pull us through to the back. I mean, I mean is this is like 15
16 people like jumping on one person and you trying to pull somebody, you might
17 catch a few trying to help him, but.

18 Q Did you talk to Robert before this went off? You said it was against what he
19 believed. Did you guys have a conversation about the fact that what you were
20 doing?

21 A Yeah, we was talking about it. He really, he really didn't want to do it, but he was
22 kinda like, I'm just gonna do it. You know, I told him, I said, if you don't want to
23 do it, don't do it, like, you know. It's like, man, you don't got to do it. You don't
24 have to do it.

25 Q Why did you do it?

1 A Honestly, I did it for the same reasons everybody else do it. Get the respect and
2 really, just really just get the respect of people, just acceptance.

3 Q Before this game happened and you guys were at practice here.

4 A Um hum.

5 Q And, and, and Dr. White came out and then I think that the chief came out and
6 talked to you guys. Did you remember hearing them say stuff about rituals and
7 stuff like that.

8 A Well...

9 Q Did you, not to do it and all that?

10 A I was walking around. I went to the bathroom.

11 Q Right.

12 A And then I was walking around doing other stuff. Like picking up stuff, like.

13 Q But you, but it, but it was kind of a, you know, it's almost like a, kind of like when
14 our bosses come up and tell us not to do something we do all the time.

15 A Um hum.

16 Q And it's be like okay, okay well.

17 A Um hum.

18 Q But, that, that kind of conversation happen in the beginning? Saying don't do it?

19 A I was, I walked over from time to time. I heard him say a few things, but I just
20 kept walking because I really wasn't (inaudible).

21 Q Were people nervous before this happened? Like at the, at the, like they were,
22 okay, we gotta do this. We got to get it done so that, you know, we got, we got to
23 take care of our own business before Dr. White gets back here or whoever else
24 at that.

25 A Oh, I don't know.

1 Q You don't know.

2 A I don't know other people (inaudible).

3 Q Okay, alright. Do you swear everything you told us today was the truth?

4 A Yes sir.

5 Q Keon, I appreciate your testimony.

6 **(Detective Phelan)**

7 Q Thank you for being honest and coming in.

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20 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

21 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

22
23 
24 **DETECTIVE Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JAMES HOWARD**

2 **DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-104834**

4
5 **Okay, today is December 12, 2011. I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County**
6 **Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. Currently out at the Orange**
7 **County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division, interview room. Also**
8 **present with me is Corporal Jason McMullen and we're here speaking with: State**
9 **your first and last name for me.**

10
11 A James Howard.

12 Q Mr. Howard, what, let's see, what's your date of birth?

13 A 2-18-1958.

14 Q And your address?

15 A 108 Southwest Orange Avenue. Branford, Florida.

16 Q Okay, and you have a cell phone?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q And that's 850-322-2063?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And your home phone number is 386-935-4299?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay, uh, we're here in reference to the death of a uh, FAMU band player, uh,
23 Robert Champion. That occurred back on the 18th.

24 A Um hum.

25 Q Um, of November. You work with uh, name is it? Fabulous...

1 A Fabulous Coach Lines.

2 Q How long you been in Florida James?

3 A Uh, 3 years now.

4 Q And you, you're under no obligation to give a statement here. Do you understand

5 that? Uh, we're just trying to get all the facts that surrounded the uh, death of Mr.

6 Champion and this would be a voluntary statement. If you wish to stop at any

7 point, tell me and I will be more than happy to stop, okay?

8 A Okay.

9 Q So you been there 3 years?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And you also understand this is being recorded, right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Uh, did you drive the uh, drive one of the buses to Orlando for the FAMU

14 Bethune-Cookman game?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you arrived here on Friday night, Friday night?

17 A Yes. Friday evening.

18 Q That Friday evening. Uh, what bus number did you drive. There's a sign, that,

19 okay, go ahead with your bus number first.

20 A Um, my bus number was 911.

21 Q 911.

22 A And, and, they uh are in order like A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

23 Q Okay, and you are in reference to that order, which would you be?

24 A A.

25 Q So you were the A bus. You drive the big man.

1 A The big man.

2 Q Most of the time.

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q Okay. Uh, since how long have you'all been have under contract with uh,

5 FAMU?

6 A Uh, when I started they was just getting it, so it's got be 3 years now.

7 Q Okay, 3 years. And over that period of time, have, uh, you been made aware of

8 or know anything about any type of hazing?

9 A No, I, I really didn't know what it was. Um, I had an incident that happened and I

10 thought that it might have been, but I wasn't sure.

11 Q And when was this?

12 A It was the second game that I did with FAMU. Um, I was driving coach C and uh,

13 after we got back from the game, one of the, one of the band members. I don't

14 know him by name, but they came and said can we have a meeting?

15 Q Okay.

16 A And I said well how long will it last? They said a few minutes. So I, I said okay

17 and I got off the coach to go take my trash and come back. And when I came

18 back they was back in a little huddle around somebody.

19 Q Okay.

20 A And I said what's going on? And I seen a girl. She didn't have no shirt on. She

21 just had her bra on. I said oh, no, you'all can't be there. I ain't know what they

22 was doing, so I said no, you can't do this in here. So I said no. You got to go.

23 So, after all this come about, I thought about that and that might have been what

24 that was.

25 **(Detective McMullen)**

1 Q You remember where that was?

2 A I'm not sure. Uh, it had to be, seemed like to me it was in Atlanta. (Inaudible)...it
3 was in Atlanta. 'Cause we only do like 2 or 3 main games for them.

4 **(Detective Phelan)**

5 Q Okay, so other than, on this, on this particular trip here, at, wait a minute, let me
6 ask you, have you have any other incidents or been told of any other incidents by
7 bus drivers or anything that might appear to be a hazing type of thing?

8 A No, uh, Steve Harrington told me that on, I guess it's the Orange Bird game, the
9 game before the uh, the Bethune game that he stopped somebody from doing
10 something hurt a girl, um, but he stopped them. So I don't know what exactly
11 they was doing, but he told me about it. He said he think that was hazing, so.

12 **(Detective McMullen)**

13 Q Which game? Which games?

14 A Orange Bird.

15 Q Orange Bird?

16 A Orange Bird. They went to play South Carolina State.

17 Q Okay.

18 A But that's the only other incident that I heard of.

19 Q So Orange Bird is in South Carolina?

20 A Um hum.

21 **(Detective Phelan)**

22 Q Did, do you recall a in, I guess a bus got some property taken off of it in South
23 Carolina?

24 A Oh yeah, that was in, in uh, was that Orange Bird? Yes, that was in Orange Bird.

25

1 Q Okay. And after that bus, uh, was, had property stolen from the band members
2 was there a directive sent down from Dr. White or anything in reference to how
3 you were to be with the buses or anything?

4 A He said he want, he don't want any buses left unlocked when, when the leave the
5 coaches, no busses left unlocked from that point on. And he said if, if, if it
6 couldn't be done like that, he would get another company. That's what he tell us.

7 Q Okay, and uh, this particular trip, you were on bus A and you know who was
8 driving bus C?

9 A Uh, Wendy, Wendy Millette. It's a lady. Most time we drive the same coaches all
10 the time. It's, if, if we go on FAMU we got the same, mostly have the same
11 drivers.

12 Q So the majority of the time, she's, when she's driving, she's driving bus C.

13 A She's on bus C.

14 Q The night that you returned, well, let me ask (inaudible)...but the night that you
15 returned from the game from Saturday night. Do uh, you recall returning the the
16 uh, hotel parking lot there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay, and once you'all got there, uh, the busses stop. All the students disband,
19 disboard, debark?

20 A Right. Well, well, well, normally, uh, the, the, the group leaders will let them get
21 off coach at a time. But this incident, Dr. White drove with, was in the limousine
22 and we had a traffic jam getting back. It took us a long time to get back. So he
23 got in the limousine and got back to the hotel 'cause he wanted to go out. Him
24 and his wife in the limousine. But we got there and they all just started getting
25 out.

1 Q Okay.

2 A So it was no order this time, so they all started getting out and headed whichever
3 way they was going.

4 Q Okay, at some point I take it the bus drivers left and go to eat. To go to eat?

5 A Yeah, when, now, now I remember the times. We, we all got there about 8:25
6 and, and on the way from the game, my coach had a light that come on that says
7 check engine. So I had my manager riding with me and I pointed to it and he
8 said okay, we'll check it when we get to the hotel. So we got to the hotel and it
9 didn't say check engine. It said engine shut down. So I said okay, we, we, we
10 have to do a thing like regenerate. So I say I got to regenerate and I sit there in
11 the coach trying to figure out how to get it to regenerate and one of the drivers
12 did come to me and he was telling me how to do it. And we thought we had it, so
13 you have to let it run for 45 minutes like. So I started letting it running and I was
14 getting the trash out. And that's when one of the other drivers, Wendy, Wendy
15 came to me and she said uh, we, we gonna go ahead and eat. You going with
16 us? I said no, I got to stay here and let this bus generate. So she told me that,
17 well, I got the people cleaning up my coach. Can you shut mine off when you
18 shut yours off, 'cause we going to eat. I said sure, just bring me something to
19 eat. And they left and went to eat. Most of the drivers sent except one driver
20 and that was Paul Moore. And he went directly to the room. And I stayed in the
21 coach about 10, 15 minutes or so. And one, one of the head drum majors came
22 looking for Travis. That's, that's my manager, 'cause he was in my coach. And
23 he said well, where's Travis? And I got off looking for him and I did see the
24 people in the coach behind me, which was C. And they was going in and off.

25 (Detective McMullen)

1 Q Students, band members?

2 A Band members. I said I don't see Travis. I said well, I'm the lead coach driver.
3 I'm in, I'm in charge of this, what can I do for you? So he asked me could, could
4 the limousine take the drum majors out somewhere that night because Dr. White
5 and them was going in a limousine to eat. I said well, you know Dr. White them
6 going out to eat. I said you got to either go before them or either he'll come back
7 and get you'all after they take him to eat.

8 Q Um hum.

9 A And uh, he's say so that's fine. So I called Dr. White and I said would that be
10 okay for your drum majors to go out and eat. And they come back and get you
11 and then go back them there to give him time where ever they was going to stay.
12 So I sit in the coach all this time and finally they okayed it and I told them it was
13 okay. So, me and my sister got out the coach. Since I had to let it run. And
14 went into the lobby and on my way in the lobby, you have to go through the glass
15 doors on the side, 3 of the drum majors met me at the door. And they said thank
16 you. You know they were shaking my hand 'cause I told them they could go in
17 the limousine.

18 **(Detective Phelan)**

19 Q And were they going out?

20 A They were going out when I was coming in. And uh...

21 **(Detective McMullen)**

22 Q And at that time Wendy's bus was still running?

23 A Wendy bus was still running and my bus was still running.

24 Q Okay.

25

1 A I left mine running. But they was still going in and out though, so I don't know,
2 uh, when all of the other (inaudible)...I went to the lobby and I sit in there about,
3 about 9, 9:30, 'cause Dr. White was supposed to come down to eat. They go in
4 the limousine at 9:15 so I called Dr. White. I said the limousine still waiting on
5 you. He said well, I'm coming. My wife should be already out there. And by this
6 time, Travis called me from Golden Corral. He said Mr. Howard, he said, can
7 you go out to the coach? There's something going on out there. I said, I just left
8 them out there. He said, but can you go out there and check 'cause something is
9 going on. So by this time, I gets up to head to the door and I met Dr. White's
10 wife. And I said Dr., I, I, said you been to the coaches? She said yeah. I says
11 something going on. She said yes, something going on. So she didn't tell me
12 what. So when I got to the back door, I seen the fire truck. I seen the
13 ambulance. I went on up there. Dr. White was already out there and they was
14 giving him, giving the fella CPR and I asked Dr. White, what's wrong? And he
15 said it's one of my drum majors. I think he dead. And I said uh huh. So I looked
16 and they was still giving him CPR. And then...

17 **(Detective Phelan)**

18 Q Do you know if that was one of the ones that you seen go out the door?

19 A I think Robert was one of the ones that said thank you. Um hum.

20 Q And do you know who the other two were that was with him?

21 A I don't know their, I don't know none of the names, but...

22 Q If I showed you a picture of them.

23 A Yeah.

24 Q You seen them over the last couple of weeks

25

1 A Yeah, I knew them if I see the picture of them, but one of the them was the head
2 drum major and one of them was the light skinned drum major with a beard and
3 then Robert.

4 Q I'm a show you some pictures here. And you can tell me if you can. These are
5 probably a little older. They look a little bit young in some of these.

6 A Okay.

7 Q (Inaudible) Is any of those?

8 A It was him. I don't see the other two.

9 Q Okay (inaudible).

10 A 'Cause that's the head drum major.

11 **(Detective McMullen)**

12 Q Who's that?

13 A This one. (Inaudible)

14 **(Detective Phelan)**

15 Q Just for the record, he pointed out a picture that's been identified as Jonathan
16 Borson. You're saying that it, as far as you know, that is the head drum major.

17 A It's the head drum (inaudible)... 'cause they call him to the back, the Battle of the
18 Bands they actually stand up when they graduate and I remember he stood up.

19 Q You see anyone there that may have been involved? One of the drum majors
20 that was?

21 A I shook his hand.

22 Q Now these are the three that went out the door?

23 A Yeah. It was definitely the first one you showed me and it was Robert.

1 Q Okay. And for the record, indicated Shawn Turner as being the other individual
2 he saw leaving out of the hotel as he was entering the hotel around a little bit
3 before 9:30.

4 A Yeah, it had, it had, had to be like 9:05.

5 Q Okay 9:05, approximately 9:05?

6 A See I remember these times because I called Dr. White at, at, at, 9 o'clock and
7 he told me he was going to come down at 9:15 and I got up at 5 minutes later,
8 went in the hotel so.

9 Q Oh, you sure that uh, Wendy Millette, her bus was still running.

10 A It was still running.

11 Q Left running?

12 A It was running. It was running because when we went back out there and they
13 was giving him CPR, it was still running.

14 Q Was still running.

15 A 'Cause I asked him could we shut it down, they said no.

16 **(Detective McMullen)**

17 Q Yeah, thought it was running when we got there.

18 A Yeah, it running.

19 **(Detective Phelan)**

20 Q Okay, did you notice if any of the lights was on?

21 A The lights on the inside was on. Um hum.

22 Q And you said that she had somebody cleaning it up?

23 A Yeah, that's what she came, when I was sitting in my coach, she, it was like 4 in
24 a row. A, B, C, D, and the other was parked on the other side, E, F, G. And um,
25 her's was sounding like on this side. I was over here and her's was on this side,

1 but another coach was on this side of me. So I, I could only see they going in
2 and out. She came and told, came to the door and said you gonna be here?
3 Are, are you going to eat with us? I said, no I gotta to let mine regenerate.
4 'Cause she know what regenerate is. And she said well we going to uh, Golden
5 Corral and after that we gonna fuel up that coach. That was the main reason for
6 them to go fueling that coach and uh, they went to eat and I said, well, bring me
7 something to eat, 'cause I'm not going and I, and I stayed there. But it was
8 running.

9 Q Okay. Did um, these two gentlemen, did you see them out at the coach when
10 you went back out? The other two drum majors that you saw leave the hotel?

11 A Talking about when I was going in?

12 Q Once you, uh, came out and saw that whatever was... (overtalking).

13 A Well, when I was coming out, I believe I met some of the drum majors, but I was
14 in a hurry to get out of there because he told me to hurry up and go see what
15 was going on. So after I got out there, everything just was, oh, it was after that
16 'cause I went, when I, when I seen the fire truck I thought maybe somebody had
17 broke in the bus or something. And I had left mine running, so I didn't know what
18 to think. I thought maybe somebody got in it and tried to drive it. But uh, mine
19 they shut off 'cause, 'cause, 'cause I didn't do it right. I didn't do, didn't do the
20 generation right so it shut off anyway 'cause it said engine shutdown, so it shut
21 off and they had been off all that time and I didn't even know it. So anyway, it
22 was, it was, it was still running when they was there and it ran for like, I don't
23 know, how long after that.

24 (Detective McMullen)
25

1 Q Okay, it that, is that common to have the, I mean, when she says their cleaning
2 the bus, is she talking about band members cleaning it?

3 A Yeah, band members usually, usually clean, clean the coach off when they get
4 off. They either do it then or they have to do it sometime the next day before
5 they get on and, and if you're gonna stay out there with them, then you can let
6 them do it then. But that's, but that's...

7 Q But you...

8 A ...a common practice. And what we do, when we with FAMU band, when we go
9 to a hotel, all our drivers have been driving almost 10 hours, so we let all the
10 drivers go except for about 1 or 2 and just stay with the coaches until everybody
11 get all their stuff of. They coming backwards and forward. Back and forth.
12 'Cause we find that from past experience when you go in the rooms, as soon as
13 you get in your room, somebody knocking on your door, saying I left something.

14 **(Detective Phelan)**

15 Q Alright, did you notice anyone else when, as you were out, you know, you were
16 trying to re uh, generate your bus and before you went inside, did you notice
17 anyone else around the bus that you might know by name or?

18 A No, 'cause it, it was kinda dark out there and the only person came to my coach
19 was the head drum major.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And he asked me about the limousine. And I know, 'cause my sister was sitting
22 in the coach with me, 'cause she came over to visit and um, and I said well, I
23 tried to work it out for you. And that's the only person I seen, 'cause I got off to
24 look back there see if Travis was somewhere walking around, but I guess he had
25

1 already gone, 'cause Wendy had already come to me and told me what to do
2 with her coach.

3 Q Right.

4 A That's why I figured they was already gone. But no, I didn't recognize anybody at
5 the coach.

6 Q Have the kids ever approach you and ask you to do anything simulated or could
7 be construed to be a membership type thing to the uh, bus?

8 A Well, they hadn't asked me, but they was doing something that day in that coach
9 when I saw them and I didn't, I didn't feel comfortable about that 'cause I told
10 them you'all can't be doing. 'Cause they was gathered around a girl. They
11 was...(overtalking).

12 **(Detective McMullen)**

13 Q Oh, you talking about in South, or Atlanta, that one?

14 A Yeah, yeah. And I said no, no, no. But they never asked me nothing like that
15 again.

16 Q Did anybody ever ask you to leave a bus open.

17 A No.

18 Q Or have you heard of them asking anybody else to leave a bus open?

19 A I, I, I, haven't heard of them, but I heard somebody say one time that they was
20 outside on night in between the busses. The bus was parked in the close area
21 and they told us we went out there and we found all kind of crazy stuff out there,
22 but nobody was on it. (Laughs) And I could tell you some of the stuff but I ain't...

23 **(Detective Phelan)**

24 Q Okay, raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and affirm that everything you
25 told us in the statement is true? The whole truth and nothing but the truth?

1 A Yes.
2 Q Alright. Thank you sir.
3 A Alright, thank you.

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18 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

19 Signed this 13 day of March, 2012.

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22 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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25

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF CALEB JACKSON**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **This is Detective Voyles, I'll be speaking to uh Caleb Re'al Jackson. Uh present**
7 **here is Detective Kevin Kraubetz and Investigator Kenneth Clay of the FAMU**
8 **Police Department. We'll be talking about Orange County Sheriff's Office case**
9 **number 2011-101834. It is uh(inaudible) 4:17 p.m. on November 28th, 2011 and**
10 **we're at the FAMU Police Department conference room.**

11
12
13 Q Um first of all appreciate you coming over here. Um it's, let, giving us, let, letting
14 us give you a ride okay.

15 A Un huh (Affirmative)

16
17 Q Um as, I don't know if you, you, you understand, I don't know what your, what
18 anybody told you before hand, we wanna talk to you about what happened in
19 Orlando obviously.

20 A Okay.

21 Q On "The Bus". Um you don't have to talk to us. Okay uh you have your right to
22 not talk to us. You're not under arrest, we're gonna be taking you home or
23 wherever it is you want us to drop you off after you're done. Um cause we're from
24 Orange County, we have, you know you're here, we're in Tallahassee, we don't
25 have any jurisdiction here, we just wanna talk to you.

1 A Right.

2 Q Okay. And we decided to come here instead of you coming to come, everybody

3 come down we all, we come up.

4

5 A Right.

6 Q Okay. Are you okay to talk to us about everything that happen?

7

8 A Oh yeah, I'm, I'm cool.

9 Q Okay. Um well what, tell me what, what was going on with the whole thing as far

10 as what you know about the incident that happened after the game that night?

11 A Well after the game you know, you seen my daughter, I come all the time with my

12 daughter. I had to go back to Tallahassee .

13

14 Q Okay.

15 A You know so I didn't ride "The Bus" back with the uh band, I left actually after the,

16 after we got to the hotel.

17

18 Q Okay.

19 A So...

20 Q Um the reason I'm ask, the only reason I'm asking you is because the reason

21 that we're talking to you in the first place is we're not talking to you as a list of

22 people that were on "The Bus..."

23

24 A Right.

25

1 Q ...we're actually talking to you because your name came up when we talked to
2 other people.

3 A Right.

4 Q That you were on the bus when things went down. Um so we're trying to get
5 everybody together to see who was on the bus...
6

7 A Right.

8 Q ...what was going on, cause here's the thing, we don't, right now we're being told
9 by some people that, that uh Champion was forced to do something.
10

11 A Right.

12 Q And I don't really believe that...
13

14 A And, and, and here, here's the thing with that, in the marching 100...

15 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

16 A ...you know things go in order, like you know what I'm saying if you're a
17 freshman, sophomore, whatever you know what I'm saying. My year when I
18 crossed the you know what I'm saying marching 100 meaning I, when I did The
19 Classic was 2010.
20

21 Q Okay.

22 A Meaning whatever you know drum majors do I'm not really too sure on.
23

24 Q Did you, did you, did you do the "Bus C" tradition?

25 A No.

1 Q So you've never gone through?

2 A Not, not fully.

3

4 Q What, what do you mean not fully?

5 A You know because it's not for me. You know like I have my own troubles of my

6 own you know what I'm saying, somebody you know telling you what to do,

7 telling you where to sit, you know I'm not with that you know what I'm saying...

8

9 Q Well you, are you going, so you're going to school right now?

10 A Well I was going to TCC.

11 Q Okay when did you stop going to TCC?

12

13 A When I left lost, when I had didn't have no more money.

14 Q When was that?

15

16 A Uh probably, I'll say like August.

17 Q Okay so uh you stopped going in, stopped in August.

18

19 A Yeah.

20 Q How, how is it that you were even there then?

21 A Be...

22

23 Q How are you marching...

24 A Because...

25 Q ...and you're not is school.

1 A Because my classes were still pending you know for January and stuff so I just
2 go...

3 Q You mean you, if you lost your money in August were you going to school?
4

5 A Uh uh (Negative)

6 Q Okay so were you still going to march...
7

8 A Yeah.

9 Q ...with the 100, how is that, how is that possible, how does that work?
10

11 A Because I still have a band class at Florida A&M.

12 Q Okay. So you, you were going to TCC.
13

14 A Right.

15 Q You lost your money in August.

16 A To go to TCC.

17 Q To go to TTC.
18

19 A Right.

20 Q So are you paying, how are you paying for the class here?
21

22 A Well I had, you have to pay outta pocket.

23 Q Okay so you were paying, I'm confused, man you're confusing me. When I say,
24 when you say you lost your money in August...

25 A It's a, it's a, it's a dual enrollment.

1 Q Okay.

2 A For me to even go to FAMU I have to dual enroll.

3

4 Q Okay.

5 A I, it, financial aid doesn't cover it so you have to pay for it.

6

7 Q Okay so you paid that...

8 A Cause that's...

9

10 Q ...in advance.

11 A I paid with my band dues.

12 Q Okay what, what's the band dues?

13

14 A The band dues is something that you have to pay the band.

15 Q Yeah but how much is it?

16 A It's I think like for us it's like \$59.

17

18 Q \$59?

19 A Yeah something like that.

20

21 Q So \$59 to take the class, to take the marching band class.

22 A Yeah, well I guess.

23

24 Q That's what you paid?

25 A Nobody, nobody never said nothing.

1 Q I, what did, how (laughter)...

2 A (Laughter)

3
4 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

5 Q Is that a one time fee or monthly or...

6 A Yeah, yeah, it's a one time fee.

7
8 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

9 Q So the beginning of, of, the beginning of the year in August you come in and pay
10 your fee, say you're going to TCC...

11 A Yeah but I was actually going you know...

12 Q Okay well where did you, when did you stop, you said you stopped going in
13 August.

14 A Right.

15 Q School starts in August.

16 A Right.

17 Q So you started...

18 A Because my, my, my financial aid didn't come through like I thought and that's
19 like \$600 outta pocket that I didn't have.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And I love the band so you know I kept, you know I kept marching.

1 Q Okay. Um so the people that are saying that you were on "The Bus", they're,
2 what, what's up with that? They said you were on "The Bus" that night when,
3 when, when, when the girl went through and the two guys went through, they
4 said you were on "The Bus".

5 A That's a lie.

6 Q That's a lie.

7 A Yeah I did not have confirmation, that's a lie.

8 Q How would you have confirmation?

9 A Because my, my home girl MJ, she was, she stated...

10 Q And what is MJ's real name?

11 A Uh damn what's MJ real, Monica.

12 Q Monica what?

13 A Jackson. She stated...

14 Q Is she related to you?

15 A Nah she from Palm Beach, I'm from Palm Beach.

16 Q She's, but your name is, I'm just saying your name is Jackson, her name is
17 Jackson...

18 A Yeah, nah it's no, no relation.

19 Q No relation.

20 A No relation.

1 Q Do you have a phone number for her?

2 A Yeah. She crashed in my room that Friday night so at the game I lost my um,
3 (inaudible). I lost my uh room key and she was waiting at "The Bus", matter of
4 fact when we got to the hotel they were at "The Bus" waiting for me.

5
6 Q On Friday day?

7 A On Friday, in Friday and Saturday night. I left with them.

8
9 Q Okay. I also need you to understand that we have video footage of the hotel...

10 A Right.

11 Q ...after everything that went down.

12
13 A Right.

14 Q And we have foot, video footage of everybody getting in "The Bus"...

15
16 A Right.

17 Q ...everybody that leaving "The Bus" and then going into the hotel.

18
19 A Right.

20 Q So we have video of you walking in the hotel.

21 A Right.

22
23 Q After "The Bus" incident.

24 A But I wasn't on "The Bus".

25 Q Okay you're walking in at the exact same time everybody else is.

1 A No I walked in 'bout, I walked in by myself.

2 Q No, no, I know that, I'm not, I know you walked in by yourself...

3
4 A Oh.

5 Q ...cause we have the, I was watching the video on that screen right there, I saw
6 you walk in by yourself but it was, this is how it works out and I'm gonna, "The
7 Bus" is over here, whatever, you guys, everybody leave "The Bus" and then we
8 start getting everybody coming in the, the video. So we see everybody else
9 leaving, everybody else leaves and then in that same time frame you're leaving
10 to go through the hotel as well at the same time everybody else is going. Not with
11 them but staggering. So you're saying that you left right after the game and you
12 didn't go to "The Bus" but we have you on video coming through the lobby as
13 soon as everybody's walking off "The Bus", at the same time.

14 A I'm looking...

15
16 Q That's what...

17 A ...I lost my...

18
19 Q ...the people are saying you were on "The Bus".

20 A I lost my key.

21 Q Alright.

22
23 A I was looking for my key, I did not have my key, my room key and you can even,
24 if you show the video I even went up to the uh, the what the front desk to get a
25 key cause they issued me another key.

1 Q Right I understand that.

2 A Right.

3 Q What I'm saying is that right after the game, this happened right after the game.

4 A Right.

5 Q You were still there, you weren't gone, you weren't outta town, you, it wasn't...

6 A No I wasn't, I wasn't gone out of town yet.

7 Q Right.

8 A Yeah.

9 Q That's when this happened, that's when people are saying you were on "The
10 Bus" when it happened. here's the problem, I, I don't think you understand, I think
11 that people up here it's different then down in Orlando. Everybody's making a big
12 deal out of this and they're talking about every, it's all they're talking about alright.
13 We're, you know we came up here on a Tuesday, I talked to people, we, we were
14 able to talk to people that hadn't left for school yet then we went home.

15 A Right.

16 Q We had Thanksgiving and, and we're coming up here just to follow up on the
17 investigation.

18 A I got...

19 Q We wanna make sure that Robert didn't get murdered okay.

20 A Right.

1 Q We don't think that ...

2 A But that's what I'm saying I wasn't even on "The Bus" when, when he went
3 through.
4

5 Q I got 5 people saying they saw you on "The Bus", they, that they were actually
6 involved in everything that was going on.

7 A Yeah but I, I ...

8 Q (Inaudible) involved...
9

10 A But, but I wasn't...

11 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**
12

13 Q Caleb/

14 A I could only tell you, you...

15 Q Here's the thing okay. A lot of times, most of us were in the military okay. There's
16 traditions that happen all though the thing and it's a tradition okay. I know a lot of
17 people are scared. A lot of people that were on that bus know what happen okay.
18 Listen to me, we're not gonna sit here and be like hey you know what we talked
19 to Caleb and he told us this, this, this, this and this okay. But the thing is when
20 we're dealing with this, we been doing this job a long time and there's a big
21 difference between a homicide and an accident that happened. But the main
22 thing is is I don't wanna see people looking to get tripped up on certain things
23 and not be completely honest about things because they're scared about what
24 happened thinking that well if I say I was on "The Bus" then I'm gonna be held
25 responsible and that's not the thing. What we're looking at is the big picture okay.

1 Things happen, like I said it's a tradition that has gone on for God knows how
2 may years.

3 A And, and, and I, and I understand that but when Rob goes to "The Bus" I wasn't
4 on "The Bus".

5
6 Q Okay but here's the thing, and, and this is where I don't want you to worry about
7 anything else but how would you explain when people who don't have anything
8 else to gain if they were to have a, a photo line up or a photo and say oh yeah CJ
9 was there...

10 A Yeah but everybody...

11 Q ...you, do you know what I'm saying?

12
13 A ...know that I'm in the band.

14 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

15
16 Q Yeah but, but on "The Bus" that night, the, the thing about, the thing about "The
17 Bus" is that they, not only did they know you're, you're about the band, they know
18 your voice, they know how you look...

19 A Right.

20 Q ...they know that you're there, that you were on that bus.

21
22 A Right.

23 Q It's a. it's a "Bus C" tradition and then...

1 A A "Bus C" tradition, if somebody tell you about a "Bus C", C tradition they couldn't
2 tell you very much because if, if, if, the light are off on "Bus C". there's no lights
3 on, you could, you couldn't know who was on "Bus C".

4 Q How would you know that unless you were on it?

5
6 A Cause I told you I started on "Bus C".

7 Q So you, when you...

8
9 A When, when you, when you're a percussion...

10 Q ...during, during the other in, during the other years and all the other games and
11 anything else you always ride on "Bus C".

12 A No when you're a freshman you don't ride "Bus C".

13
14 Q Okay when, once you got on "Bus C"...

15 A Right.

16
17 Q ...you were part of any kind of other, other stuff that was going on, any other
18 tradition you were part of?

19 A They don't put, they don't, they don't ...

20 Q You can't be on "Bus C" unless you've been through "Bus C".

21
22 A That's a lie. That's a lie and I'll look at you in your face and say that's a lie. On
23 "Bus C" we don't, we don't even know who gets on "Bus C", if you a percussion
24 your second year in the band you'll ride "Bus C". You don't, I don't have control
25 over who is on "The Bus"...

1 Q Right.

2 A ... they do. You know when they put you on "The Bus" they say...

3
4 Q But you're on "The Bus".

5 A ...okay but you can say you don't wanna be a part of "The Bus", it's different than
6 saying oh it's a percussion bus because that's where you get your allocation,
7 that's where you get your money from.

8
9 Q So how do you know that it's gonna be all dark in there if you've never been
10 through it?

11 A Because I seen somebody go through it before.

12 (Music tone)

13
14 Q You what?

15 A I seen somebody go through before.

16
17 Q Okay well how did you see it and you weren't on "The Bus".

18 A Tampa I, Tampa game.

19
20 Q Okay.

21 A I told you, let me try to explain, I don't think y'all understand about what...

22
23 Q Okay.

24 A ...what is the marching 100. When you a freshman you can't, you, you have no
25 say so , when you're a sophomore you have not say so.

Q Okay.

1 A (inaudible) and whatever you know up and above they have all the say so. So
2 meaning if I'm on "The Bus" they say I have to follow the rules of "The Bus".

3 Q Okay.

4 A Even if I don't wanna participate or, or not.

5 Q What are the rules of "The Bus"?

6 A If you not on "The Bus" don't look back.

7
8
9 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

10 Q Okay here's the thing, what we talk about in here is with us.

11 A Right.

12 Q Okay with this bullshit of I don't know what happens, because we all know
13 exactly what happened. But this is the thing once again...

14
15 (Music tone)

16 A Can I turn my phone off?

17
18 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20
21 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

22 Q This is one of the things, we're not looking for anybody to be a snitch, we're not
23 looking for this, all we're looking for is the truth okay plain and simple. And like I
24 said what we talk about in here stays with here. I'm not gonna go out and be like
25

1 you know what CJ told us that as soon as you get on "The Bus" this happens,
2 this happens...

3 A But that's, that's, that's, that's easy to say...

4
5 (Music tone)

6 A That's easy, that's easy to say, that's easy for you to say, I, I, you, I watch things
7 too, I watch First 48 (laughter)...

8 Q Okay let me tell you, this isn't TV. Okay you don't see any cameras up in here...

9
10 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

11 Q And we're a week into this and we're just talking like this. We, this isn't, you don't,
12 we're not blacking out your face, ain't nobody filming nothing, alright we're talking
13 about, and here's the thing, we're trying our hardest to keep this away from being
14 something where somebody intended to do something bad to him. We're looking
15 at it from the way we grew up. We come up in the military and that, that bad H
16 word that everybody's talking about, we don't consider that. We gotta go through
17 some stuff to become part of, of, of a, a (inaudible), a car, part of the
18 brotherhood.

19
20 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

21 Q A tradition.

22
23 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

24 Q And we understand. What I do understand about the marching 100 is that it is
25 125 year tradition. So things have gone on for whatever. Everything's been
suspended right now. We don't know what the future holds but we need to know

1 so that we can you know, I don't know talk some sense into people, I don't know
2 man, we're trying to help.

3 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

4
5 Q We're looking at the fact of an accident or did somebody have something out
6 personal for a person who...

7 A That's not it, you can block that out.

8
9 Q Right but you understand...

10 A Yeah, but yeah...

11 Q ...in, in the mist of it we have to...

12
13 A But, but what, what I'm saying in, in, in general, look, I love Robert like a brother,
14 more than y'all, any, everybody in this band love this man like a brother, you
15 know what I'm saying?

16 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

17
18 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

19 A Nobody would beat anybody, we in a band together you know what I'm saying.
20 It's something, but it's something that I can't help you know what I'm saying.
21 Cause I'm not in a position, I'm not in the power.

22 Q You, yes you are, right now you are. Here's the problem, this is, this isn't part of
23 what you're allowed to say and what you're not allowed to say. This is he died.
24 All that other stuff that was before, if, if he had just gotten through with some
25

1 couple of bruises nobody ever would have heard nothing about this. But he died
2 man so...

3 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

4
5 Q (Inaudible)...

6 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

7
8 Q ...so now all these people outside who don't understand, who live in a different
9 world are gonna come in and say well you know they did this on purpose. They
10 didn't like him because he was gonna be, and, and, and then Dr. White comes up
11 and says he's gonna be drum major next year, no he wasn't, I've already talked
12 to some other people...

13 (Music tone)

14 Q ...he wasn't at, anywhere even near in line, he can't...

15
16 A He, he was drum major...

17 Q You know, no I mean but head drum major.

18
19 A Oh head drum major. Oh...

20 Q He couldn't do head drum major after one year in percussions. I, that's what I've
21 heard. Now you tell me, you're saying you have to be two years in the band to
22 even be looked at...

23 A Well once you're a drum major you never know because 3 of them just
24 graduated.
25

1 Q But now, now that everybody's saying that, they're making it look like oh people
2 didn't like him, they thought he came up too fast, blah, blah, blah, they started
3 doing more than they needed to do. Because 3 people went through and why is
4 he dead, why aren't they more hurt?

5 A Right.

6
7 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

8 Q See where you can help with us is you have been on "The Bus" before, maybe
9 not on this one, you've been present, what we need to know is what happens on
10 "The Bus". is it the fact of it's just hey a person gets blind folded, they walk
11 through, you know you hit them, much love and it's done. Or is it the fact that hey
12 um it's a selective thing like this persons gonna get much more than someone
13 else, these are...

14
15 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

16 Q Or dest the person has to go.

17
18 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

19 Q ...the things that we're looking at.

20
21 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

22 Q ...compared to this person wants to go. Whether it's a choice, whether it's not a
23 choice.

24 A Well you don't have to do it if you don't want to at all, you don't. you absolutely
25 don't. Even if you do it you can say you don't want to no more, they ask you, they
always ask you do you wanna stop, you can say I wanna stop and they would

1 stop. You know say, if you don't wanna say nothing that mean you wanted to do
2 it. You know what I'm saying, you just wanted to go through. So...

3 Q So if he's half way down "The Bus" he can say, he can holler out stop.

4 A He can holler out stop cause that, it, it's happened.

5 Q Is it possible for, I mean with the, with the, with the amount of people in there...

6 A Uh uh (Negative)

7 Q ...to hear...

8 A Uh uh (Negative) because believe it or not people are helping you try...

9 Q We believe that.

10 A Yeah.

11 Q We believe that.

12 A People are trying to help you get there you know what I'm saying, to get there to
13 the back so you could just hurry up and get it over with. So it's not a case of oh
14 they beating you and you wanna stop.

15 Q Who was helping him through?

16 A You can't see with the lights off.

17 Q Okay.

18 A You can't see and I'm being dead honest, you can't see with the lights off.

19 Q How is the whole thing set up? How do you guys even get on "The Bus"? It's
20 suppose to be locked up you got, you got stuff stolen from you guys like a year

1 ago or a couple months ago or something like that didn't you? Or not that bus in
2 particular but a bus got broken into and stolen. How do you guys get on "The
3 Bus"?

4 A Now see that's, I don't know. I just, this is my first year on "The Bus" so I don't
5 even know all the rules

6
7 Q And have you gone through?

8 A Have I gone through.

9
10 Q Have you gone through the tradition? Have you gone from the front of "The Bus"
11 to the back of "The Bus"?

12 A (No audible response)

13 Q (Stuttering), you're silent...

14
15 A I don't, I don't feel...

16 Q ...you silent.

17
18 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

19 Q (Laughter)

20
21 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

22 A I don't, I don't feel...

23 Q CJ...

24 A ...comfortable, I don't feel comfortable like that man.

25 Q But it, look...

1 A Like you know what I'm saying, I got my own, I, like I told you sir I got my own
2 troubles man.

3 Q I know, I, but we're, look this is...

4
5 A It's easy for you to say that man then...

6 Q I know it is, I know, I know.

7
8 A ... and then, you know what I'm saying, then, then I see on the news, oh look
9 him, you know what I'm saying. And if I, you know what I'm saying...

10 Q Look, you know, you know what here's the funny thing about it. In our, in our, at
11 our sheriff's office if they do the, if the do the briefing from our sheriff's office, like
12 his actual, my sheriff's office, not just the, the building but his office, he's got a
13 big paddle on the (inaudible), he was a Q. He got a big paddle, he went, he
14 knows what this is all about. We've been in the military, we know what it's all
15 about, we don't talk about what doesn't need to be talked about. The problem is
16 when we went through nobody got killed.

17 A But...

18
19 Q And it's sad, and I say got killed as in opposed to accidentally died. Nobody
20 meant to do nothing.

21 A But how do you, how do you, let me ask you a question. How do you label
22 something even remotely to a homicide if some, see I, I wasn't there when he got
23 off "The Bus", you know I wasn't even, half way through you know what I'm
24 saying, I, yeah I'll tell you half way through I left cause it was kinda boring. I
25 just...

1 Q Half way, half way through the other people?

2 A Well Lissette, that's the only person I wanted to see.

3
4 Q Okay.

5 A That's the only person I wanted to see.

6
7 Q How, how was it her, her going through compared to any other ones you ever
8 seen?

9 A Regular.

10 Q Was it, how was it compared to you?

11
12 A Regular.

13 Q Regular, okay so...

14 A I never, I never remotely felt like my life was in danger, not at all.

15
16 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

17 Q See where you're concerned about, for us a lot of times when we conduct an
18 investigation it's to help either prove or disprove something did or did not...

19
20 (Music tone)

21 Q Because this incident...

22 A That's my wife.

23
24 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

25 Q I like that, I like how (inaudible).

1 A Uh.

2 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

3
4 Q ...is now national headlines...

5 A Right.

6 Q ...it's much more important for us to be able to say...

7
8 (Music tone)

9 Q ...because a lot of people are pointing fingers saying this was a deliberate act.

10
11 A Right.

12 Q When a lot of us who have been through and know about traditions need to be
13 able to answer questions ...

14 A Right.

15
16 Q ...and that's why when we're asking people, when you, and going through, like
17 he said we know how it is, each person has a seat on "The Bus". Whether it's a
18 blanket party, whether it's a person covering, they go through, it's strikes here,
19 knee strikes, anything goes, whatever it may be these are things that...

20 A Right.

21
22 Q ...in, in going through...

23 A See but when I, when I told you earlier about how the, how the band coexist
24 meaning for me now you know what I'm saying, I only know so much about you
25 know how the procedures, how, how, how something, something is done. You

1 know because even, even when in my sophomore year they don't say oh do you
2 wanna ride "Bus C", they just say, you look at the bus list and your name is on
3 "Bus C" so you know you going to get on "The Bus".

4 Q So that's when you said you have no choice.

5
6 A Right.

7 Q So when you're in if I have a senior saying or like you said you look, you're on
8 "Bus C", you know you're on "Bus C".

9
10 A I'm on "Bus C".

11 Q Now but in that what does it entail to be on "Bus C"? what are...

12 A You don't...

13
14 Q ...the traditions...

15 A ...that...tradition uh don't go to, okay...

16
17 Q I mean when they say look...

18 A ...tradition...

19 Q ...we, we know how it is, um but what we're looking at is we just need somebody
20 to say look when a person gets on "The Bus" their job is to walk to gauntlet so to
21 speak.

22
23 A I'm not, the on, the only thing to...

24 Q You go from the front to the back.

25 A ...the, the only thing they ever told us was not to go to sleep.

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Not to go to sleep?

3
4 A Yeah.

5 Q When you get on "The Bus"?

6 A Yeah watch a movie and just stay up.

7
8 Q Okay...

9 A I guess, I guess that was a part of it.

10
11 Q Here's, here's, here's my, here's my question, this is one of the, one of the things
12 that we talked to other people about is that what's, what's the, what's the start,
13 however many people wanna go, say 2 people, 3 people, 5 people wanna go
14 through. Everybody's, everybody's, this is "The Bus" right here and I'm gonna
15 pretend that my folder is "The Bus".

16 A You don't, you don't pick who goes through, they, they pick you.

17
18 Q Right no, no, I, I, what I'm saying is that 3 people go through.

19 A Okay.

20 Q And everybody else is on "The Bus".

21
22 A Okay.

23 Q This is "The Bus" right here and you gotta walk this through the line.

24 A Right.

1 Q Okay. So the first person gets on, they walk, they, they go through it with help or
2 whoever.

3 A Right.

4 Q And they sit, but then when they get through to touch back and stop everything
5 stops, they just hang out in the back. The next guy gets on and goes, does it...
6

7 A Right.

8 Q ...everybody stays there, gets to the back. The last guy or whatever gets on,
9 does it and every, and then, then everybody after that last person then everybody
10 gets off "The Bus".
11

12 A Right.

13 Q Is that how that works?

14 A (No audible response)
15

16 Q Okay.
17

18 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

19 Q And then what you were saying you were on "The Bus" half way through,
20 Champion was going down?

21 A Right.

22 Q Okay so you saw what was going on as he's coming down?
23

24 A I seen him go through.
25

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Where were you sitting at?

3
4 A All the way in the front.

5 Q Okay so you are in the front...

6
7 A Here, here's, here's how it works. You know what I'm saying if you just did "Bus
8 C" you always have to sit in the front. It goes in seasons, they call it the, the
9 beginning, middle and the end.

10 Q Oh okay.

11 A I guess, you know what I'm saying.

12
13 Q Okay.

14 A And it goes you know what I'm saying your classification.

15
16 Q Right.

17 A So you're a senior you, you know you're all the way in the back.

18
19 Q Okay.

20 A You know what I'm saying you just did it, you know you, your seat a be in the
21 front.

22 Q Okay.

23
24 A So my seat is in the front. When he goes back, you know what I'm saying, that's
25 a whole different area.

Q Okay.

1 A You know what I'm saying, that's a whole different area...

2 Q Alright so, so you, you were there...

3

4 A ...of the bus.

5 Q ...in the beginning when he was okay.

6

7 A Right.

8 Q You never saw him ...

9

10 A Not.

11 Q ...passed out or nothing...

12 A Right.

13

14 Q ...like that.

15 A Uh uh (Negative), never.

16 Q So you were, you were in the front with Lissette, you were in the front with the,

17 the second guy, who's the second guy?

18

19 A Lissette was gone.

20 Q She was, what do you mean?

21

22 A She, she had...

23 Q She went through but she's...

24 A Yeah.

25

Q ...but she's in the back of The Bus"?

1 A Yeah right.

2 Q She's not, when you say gone she's not off "The Bus" she's ...

3

4 A Nah, yeah she, she...

5 Q ...at the back of "The Bus". And then the next guy goes, you're still there and

6 then Champion goes, you're still there and as soon as he passes you you do

7 what you gotta do and then soon as it, that's over you leave?

8

9 A I had, yeah I had to go.

10 Q Okay, alright.

11 A (Laughter)

12

13 Q So it was over when you left?

14 A (No audible response)

15

16 Q He, he, he wasn't off "The Bus" but it was over, there was no more, he, he made

17 it to the back and then you left, everybody, you left with everybody else?

18 A Well I left...

19 Q And you, and you were by...

20

21 A I, I left when he was getting closer...

22 Q Okay.

23

24 A ...closer. Like he was, this man was strong, when I say...

25 Q He's a big guy.

1 A ...when I say this dude was strong, he was a strong dude. And I, he pushed his
2 way through you know what I'm saying.

3 Q He didn't have any help?

4 A Yeah everybody would need help.

5 Q Okay.

6 A You know what I'm saying. Not, not help like, not, well not everybody, if you
7 stronger than others you know what I'm saying you might need help.

8 Q How, how bad is it, is it just a slap, is it punching, is it kicking, what's going on?

9 A It's not even that.

10 Q What happened to you?

11 A What happen to me?

12 Q Yeah. At the time, not even this incident...

13 A People just try to hold you back from getting there. It's just exhaustion.

14 Q Are they, so they, are they, what, but I mean why are they holding you back so,
15 so he's going through, I'm holding him back right here and ...

16 A Right.

17 Q ...people that are on the bus, so part of my job is...

18 A Is to hold him back.

19 Q ...is to hold him back and somebody is gonna hit him while I'm holding him back?

1 A You might not even get hit. That, they main job is to do, is to hold you from
2 getting to the back. Like a lineman.

3 Q Right.

4
5 A You know what I'm saying, you pushing against him, he trying to push against
6 you, you just pushing, it's just exhausting, you know what I'm saying you just...

7 Q But I mean there's...

8
9 A Right.

10 Q ...people are gonna get hit and stuff, I mean we got...

11 A See...

12
13 Q ...we got, we got buckle marks and stuff like that.

14 A See but, see I don't know about that though, you know what I'm saying, my, I'm
15 in the front (laughter).

16
17 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

18 Q But say in the beginning, is it the beginning's job to hold and then the middle's
19 job may be something a little more ...

20 A It's all...

21
22 Q ...serious.

23 A ...it's all, nah it's all about holding, trying to hold them to the back basically.

24 Q Okay so maybe somebody from the back, which is going to be your upper
25 rank people...

1 A Right.

2 Q ...are probably gonna do more of the...

3
4 A Oh nah it, it a be all the same cause even one, you know what I'm saying,
5 when I, you know what I'm saying, you, shoot when I went...

6 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

7 Q You, you, you know what's funny CJ is that one of the things that they
8 mentioned, one of the, one of the guys that, that came in and talked to us had
9 mentioned was that things were different with Robert because he was a drum
10 major. And these, these are the exactly words they used to, to, when they were
11 talking to me. And drum, drum majors in the band are like...

12 A But who did...

13 Q ...are like the police.

14 A Right.

15 Q And if you get a, if you get a shot to hit the police you gotta take it.

16 A It's different, it's, who did you talk to? Did you talk to a neo, did you talk to
17 somebody that...

18 Q What's a neo?

19 A Somebody that just came into the band 2010. Or did you talk to somebody that
20 was in the band 4 or 5 years already?

21 Q They were, they, they've been in the band for a while.

22 A So they, he would know. He would know.

23 Q So nobody was excited about hitting Dontae or not Dontae, uh...

24 A Oh Lord.

25 Q ...Robert.

1 A Well...

2 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

3 Q And once again it, we're not looking to jam anybody up, it's just an
4 explanation...

5 A Right.

6 Q ...so we can sit there and look at it. because once again if I just have you
7 know we're all percussion and it's one thing, but now you get the upper guy
8 and this is the one chance you got to be like yo' he fucking made me do some
9 push ups, this...

10 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

11 Q (Inaudible)...

12 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

13 Q ...that and the other. That's...

14 A But here, here...

15 Q ...I'm a get my one lick on him...

16 A ...here, here's the thing...

17 Q ...cause I can.

18 A ...here, here's the thing, here's the thing, I didn't even know that drum majors
19 do "Bus C".
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Okay.

3
4 A I thought it was a percussion bus, that's what I was told.

5 Q You thought the only people that did, they were percussions too.

6
7 A In percussion. So I didn't even know, you know what I'm saying, that the
8 drum major, cause this is my first time on "The Bus".

9 Q Okay.

10 A You know what I'm saying so I don't know all the rules you know.

11
12 Q So were you surprised to see the drum majors going through?

13 A (No audible response)

14 Q See them get on to go do it?

15
16 A Right. Because you know what I'm saying you hear talk, you hear talk during
17 the year oh "Bus C, Bus C", but you never know what to expect, you know
18 what I'm saying, that's just walking into somewhere blind. You, you might
19 hear rumors but you never know.

20 Q How many, how many uh appear, how many um performances did you guys
21 have this year?

22
23 A Away?

24 Q Yeah.

25 A Probably about 4.

1 Q And out of those 4 were you on "Bus C" every time?

2 A Yeah until I had the flu.

3 Q Until you had the flu.

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay so you did "Bus C" last year though?

6 A No this year, this year.

7 Q So first thing...

8 A Right...

9 Q ...no, no I'm just saying you went through.

10 A 2011.

11 Q Is the first time you went through?

12 A Yeah, 2011.

13 Q How did it get explained to you that you, that, I mean you're a percussion
14 right?

15 A Right.

16 Q And you thought "Bus C" was only a percussion thing.

17 A Right.

18 Q How did you get told about it or how did you get, I mean how did that whole
19 thing come about? As far as you saying hey man you're a percussion you

1 need to, you need to, you need to man up, you need to get through "The
2 Bus". If you're gonna be, if you're gonna be a percussion you gotta do this.
3 How did they...

4 A Well I heard about it in high school.

5
6 Q You heard about it in high school?

7 A Yeah.

8
9 Q Where did you go to high school (laughter)?

10 A Palm Beach Lakes.

11 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

12
13 Q (Laughter)

14 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

15
16 Q Palm Beach Lakes?

17 A Yeah.

18
19 Q Palm Beach County?

20 A Palm Beach County.

21 Q So you heard about "Bus C" in Palm Beach before you even got here. Is this
22 something you wanted to do, you always wanted to be in the marching 100?

23 A (No audible response)

24
25 Q I mean you, did you play, you played...

1 A I wanted to go to Cookman.

2 Q You wanted to go to Cookman.

3
4 A My dad was a marching man at Cookman 1975 but he made me mad my
5 senior year.

6 (Laughter)

7
8 Q So...

9 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

10 Q So this is a way to get back at him because...

11
12 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

13 Q So you stuck it to him?

14 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

15 Q ...with a rival school.

16
17 A Stuck it to him.

18 Q (Laughter) that's good shit.

19
20 A I'm dead serious, I, I'm being real

21 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

22 Q No, no, no my, my, my dad did the same thing.

23
24 A I'm being real.

25 Q My, my, my grandfather hated...

1
2 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

3
4 Q That's good shit right there.

5 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

6
7 Q My grandfather hated...

8 A I'm being real, I'm just being real, I, I wanted to go to Cookman.

9 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

10
11 Q Dude did your dad snap when he knew you were going to A&M?

12 A No he told me I was living his dream cause he was from Tallahassee.

13 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

14
15 Q Oh well that's good.

16 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

17
18 Q Oh.

19 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

20
21 Q He turned it around.

22 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

23 Q (Laughter)

24
25 A Yeah he turned it around.

1
2 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

3
4 Q So you knew about it since, since high school?

5 A Right.

6
7 Q So when you got here how did they, how did they say okay you or did you just
8 know at the end of the first game I gotta go up there and do it?

9 A Nah freshman year you, you cool. They, you on your own bus, you know what
10 I'm saying...

11 Q Oh okay.

12
13 A ...it's, you can say, you can say I wanna be on "Bus C".

14 Q I thought all percussions was on "Bus C".

15
16 A Yeah, yeah but you can say, you can go to them and say oh I don't wanna be
17 on it.

18 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

19 Q What happens if you say...

20
21 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

22 Q (Inaudible)...

23
24 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

25 Q ...you don't wanna be on it?

1 A Exactly. Whose gon' do, a lot of people done it, a lot of people.

2 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

3
4 Q Say I don't wanna be, cause...

5 A Yeah.

6 Q ...to be on "Bus C" you gotta be, you gotta go through "Bus C".

7
8 A Right.

9 Q That's what I said earlier you said no.

10
11 A No.

12 (Laughter)

13 Q Come on man.

14
15 A No you don't, you actually don't, you actually don't. What happen, I, I think
16 they changed it, you acutally don't have to go...

17 Q Right.

18
19 A ...but you have to follow the rules.

20 Q But if you're gonna sit on "Bus C"...

21 A You have to follow the rules.

22
23 Q You have to follow...

24 A You can't go to sleep.

1 Q Okay so you can't just sit by while, if, if you're on "Bus C" and they're gonna,
2 and they're gonna do a "Bus C"...

3 A They not gon' mess with you.

4 Q But you got, you still gotta...

5 A You go...

6 Q ...you still gotta participate...

7 A No.

8 Q ...doing what you gotta do.

9 A You, you go, you go 'bout your business. They won't mess with you I promise
10 you, they won't mess with you at all.

11 Q (Inaudible)...

12 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

13 Q Now but...

14 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

15 Q ...there's no respect that, this, this is what I've been told that "Bus C" is a
16 respect.

17 A Right it's a...

18 Q You get, you get respect from the rest of, if you go through "Bus C" you get
19 respect from everybody in the band.

20 A It's not for everybody.

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q But in the same respect...

3
4 A It's, it's, it's not, it's not...

5 Q ...if you don't follow the rules...

6
7 A ...it's not, it's not...

8 Q ...on "Bus C"...

9
10 A ...it's not, it's, it's not for everybody in a, not in a fear factor but it, it's not for
11 everybody because you know who, who wants you know what I'm saying for
12 somebody to hold you back and you can't do nothing about it you know what
13 I'm saying. Who, who wants that?

14 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

15 Q But to be a part of a tradition you wanna be part of a tradition.

16
17 A But everybody doesn't wanna be a part of the tradition.

18 Q But if you're on "Bus C" you're part of that tradition.

19
20 A Not really.

21 Q Not really (laughter).

22 A You have to want to.

23
24 Q Right.

25 A You have to want to.

1 Q But to get on "Bus", did you have, did you go, before you got on "Bus C",
2 before you were sitting on "Bus C"...

3 A Right.

4 Q ...did you go through "Bus C"?

5 A No.

6 Q The tradition.

7 A Before I got on it?

8 Q Before you go to "The Bus" ...

9 A Uh uh (Negative)

10 Q ...did you go. So the first time you got on "The Bus" did you go?

11 A Uh uh (Negative)

12 Q How long did it take you?

13 A (No audible response)

14 Q I can't imagine you, you, you let them talk shit to you the entire time, I can't

15 believe you sitting on this bus, you ain't "Bus C".

16 A (Inaudible)...

17 Q Cause that's what, that's what, that's what happens.

18 A Uh about 4 games, yeah.

19 Q Four games.

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 A Four games.

2 Q Four games and then you went through?

3

4 A Yeah.

5 Q So it...

6

7 A They don't mess, they don't mess with you ...

8 Q It happens every single time? Every game, after every game ...

9

10 A Uh uh (Negative)

11 Q ... "Bus C" happens.

12 A Uh uh (Negative). May, may not.

13

14 Q Cause that's what, that's what I heard Robert wanted to do it.

15 A It, but it...

16 Q He want, he wanted to do it.

17

18 A ...but it, it may not, it depends you know what I'm saying, if, it depends if they

19 wanna do it. It ...

20 Q How does, how does it come down, how does it, how, when you did it, not this

21 time but when you did it how did you arrange to have it done? You just said

22 I'm gonna do "Bus C" today?

23

24 A Nah they do it. They tell me uh I guess it's your turn, stay on "The Bus".

25

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q And then that's when you're like yea or nay.

3
4 A Yea or nay, you could always say yea or nay. But if you, but if you stay on
5 "Rhe Bus" that long you not gon' say nay, you know what I'm saying. You
6 wanted to be on that bus.

7 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

8 Q So to be on that bus eventually you're gonna have to go through "Bus C".
9 you're gonna have to go through the tradition.

10
11 A Right.

12 Q Otherwise they're gonna...

13
14 A Because they ask you, they ask you, they ask you when they do "The Bus"
15 list. Whoever don't want "The Bus" you know what I'm saying but who wants
16 to you know, whoever don't wanna be on "The Bus" tell me and I'll arrange for
17 you to be on another bus. So if you don't arrange for you to be on another
18 bus obviously that's what you wanted to do.

19 Q Okay. The, the faculty that's on The Bus".

20
21 A Right.

22 Q How does the whole, did you guys talk about "Bus C", is, it, is it...

23 A No.

24 Q ...the whole, how does it...

25

1 A No.

2 Q ...you don't know nothing about it?

3
4 A No. Not, not...

5 Q But you've known about it since high school.

6
7 A See but that's, that's because my, people from my high school was in the
8 percussions.

9 Q Okay.

10 A So you know what I'm saying, they, they come home with stories, oh you
11 know what I'm saying and we just be like. And that's like kinda, it's like okay.
12 It's, you know what I'm saying, it's all rumors until you get here. It's all rumors
13 until you get here.

14
15 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

16 Q Are you allowed to, let's say you're a senior in high school and you're gonna
17 come up here.

18
19 A No.

20 Q You can't kinda sit in and be like...

21 A No, uh uh (Negative). You can't even do it as a freshman.

22
23 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

24 Q So you can't even go through "Bus C" as a freshman?

25 A Uh uh (Negative)

1 Q Why?

2 A (No audible response)

3 Q Is it a rule book somewhere?

4 A I just, I don't, when I was a freshman they don't, they didn't put me on "Bus C", I,
5 see I don't make "The Bus" list so I wouldn't know you know what I'm saying.

6 Q Do they don't talk to you at all, it's kinda like you're...

7 A Uh uh (Negative)

8 Q ...(inaudible), you don't, they don't know nothing about nothing...

9 A Right like I'm a just a green sheet, an award you know what I'm saying. They
10 won't talk to you like that on that level.

11
12 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

13 Q And then who, who does "The Bus" list, is it the section leader?

14 A Uh uh (Negative) I, I don't know, I, I would...

15 Q Like percussion leader, like...

16 A ...nah I would, I would imagine...

17 Q ...snare or...

18 A ...somebody, I would imagine somebody you know that, I guess the
19 secretaries or...

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Well how do you, how do you, how do you end up, if you're, if they don't talk
3 to you as a freshman, what are you, what are you, you a junior right now?

4
5 A So, sophomore.

6 Q You're a sophomore.

7
8 A In the band.

9 Q So they, they didn't even talk to you last year at all?

10 A Well yeah on the practice field yeah. But...

11
12 Q Okay on the practice field but how, how is it that your name ended up on the
13 list if you never told nobody you wanted to do it or not?

14 A Cause it's my second year in the band.

15 Q So second year in the band...

16
17 A It automatically, automatically...

18 Q ...you're, you're automatically in "Bus C".

19
20 A As a percussionist.

21 Q As a percussionist.

22 A Yes, automatically.

23
24 Q So that's when you gotta put up or shut up?

25 A Right.

1 Q And what happens if you shut up?

2 A You just shut up.

3 Q You stay on, you stay on "The Bus"?

4 A Nah you just, if you say you don't want to you don't have to ride. You don't,
5 you don't...

6 Q Where do you ride then?

7 A On, out of 10 buses you could pick a spot.

8 Q You just get to pick a spot.

9 A You could pick any bus you want to.

10 Q So by going through you get to be a little bit cooler than everybody else?

11 A Nah you just get to have a seat by yourself.

12 Q What do you mean?

13 A It's not that many people on "Bus C". It's not like 50 people that ride "The
14 Bus". It'll probably be like 30 so you know what I'm saying, if you on "The
15 Bus" you gon' have a seat by yourself, you incline to...

16 Q Now, okay and that, that, that, that's a little confusing to me now because if
17 you're saying that the faculty doesn't know and there's like 4 faculty
18 members on your bus and their bus happens to be less empty than every
19 other bus, there's got to be somebody that knows why...

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q (Laughter)

3
4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

5 Q ...only 30 seats are full instead of 50. I mean I'd be, I'd be, I'd be...

6
7 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

8 Q Especially in these economic times...

9
10 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

11 Q ...I'd be, I'd be jumping to get on "Bus C" if I had to ride 4 hours somewhere.

12 A I'm not, I'm not saying that "The Bus" is skimp but like it's not a lot of, you,
13 people graduate you know what I'm saying so if they graduate of course they
14 not gon' ride "The Bus". They're not gonna ride you know what I'm saying if
15 you, if you graduate you got, people graduate every, every year from
16 percussions. So you nev, you never know who's on "The Bus".

17
18 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

19 Q But if everyone on "Bus C" is suppose to be percussion...

20 A Right.

21
22 Q ...and then you got other people in percussions that are on let's say Bus B,
23 people like why aren't you on "Bus C". I'm like I don't know.

24 A They don't wanna tell them...

25 Q You know what I'm saying.

1 A ...they don't wanna tell them that, they were scared and they ain't wanna ride.

2 Q (Laughter)

3
4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

5 Q So you go on "Bus C" you won't get, I mean...

6
7 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

8 Q At some point...

9
10 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

11 Q You, you gotta do it at some point.

12 A Uh uh (Negative). If you on "Bus", you don't have to.

13 Q Okay.

14
15 A You know what I'm saying, if...

16 Q But then you, you don't have to but you can also go sit on Bus B.

17
18 A Right.

19 Q If you're not gonna do it...

20 A But, but...

21
22 Q ...you need to get going.

23 A See but if you want your money you gon' sit on "Bus C".

24 Q Money, what do you mean?

1 A Allocation.

2 Q You don't get paid to sit on another bus?

3

4 A Huh? If, if your bus, if your, your name on that bus list...

5 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

6

7 A ...you gon' get, you know what I'm saying, you gon' sit on that bus.

8 Q Yeah you, okay but I, I, I saw a bus list earlier...

9

10 A Right.

11 Q ...it's, it's, another detective has it.

12 A Right.

13

14 Q And it had like your (inaudible), you hotel room, your food and all that kind of

15 stuff, is that the money you're talking about?

16 A Yeah right.

17 Q Okay...

18

19 A So...

20 Q ...if you're on another bus you don't get paid?

21

22 A You can't, you can't get that money because that's not your bus. Like they go

23 a list of who on "The Bus", you know like a, you know to check in your name.

24 Q Right, right.

25

1 A You know what I'm saying, they look down the list, that's not your bus so what
2 are you doing on this bus, you know what I'm saying. That's like...

3
4 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

5 Q Was there extra monies because you're part of "Bus C" that you get a little
6 more...

7 A Uh uh (Negative), no, uh uh (Negative)...

8
9 Q ...extra than...

10 A ...never.

11 Q ...Bus A or B.

12
13 A No.

14 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

15 Q But, so "Bus B" has their own money too, you just gotta, you have to go on
16 your bus to get your money?

17
18 A Right.

19 Q You have to go on your specific bus...

20
21 A Your specific bus...

22 Q ...to get your money.

23
24 A ...to get your money.

25 Q Okay you, you, you, you confused me, you scared me a little bit, I was like
damn you get, you...

1 A You, you, you know (inaudible)...

2 Q ...get paid to go on "The Bus".

3
4 A No.

5 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

6
7 Q (Laughter)

8 A No, yeah.

9 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

10
11 Q I'm like damn.

12 A You get your allocation, you get your money to, you know what I'm saying and
13 then you ride "The Bus".

14 Q Okay. So you went through, you went, you were on "The Bus" when all 3 of them
15 went through. You left after Robert because he was done, that was the last
16 person that went right, that's what you're saying? You went through with
17 Lissette, she was first and then Robert was last and the other guy was in the
18 middle right?

19
20 A Right.

21 Q Okay so of the 3 gauntlets, do you know what a gauntlet is?

22
23 A Uh uh (Negative).

1 Q A gauntlet is basically when you, people stand on either side of somebody and
2 then somebody's gotta run through and they get hit the whole way through and
3 then they're done. They run the gauntlet, that's what it's called.

4 A Right.

5 Q Something from midevil times.

6 A Okay.

7 Q That's what, that's what's going on on "The Bus".

8 A Oh that's crazy.

9 Q Okay. Same thing.

10 A Oh, oh.

11 Q Here...

12 A That, but you made it seem like...

13 Q Well that's what it is, it's called (inaudible).

14 A Oh, oh.

15
16
17
18
19
20 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

21 Q Yeah it's just tradition.

22
23 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

24 Q It's a tradition.

25 A Okay.

1 Q Of you know, starting from, you know being squire to being a knight you gotta
2 go through the gauntlet...

3 A Okay.

4 Q ...and then all of a sudden you get to ride horses and everybody salutes you.

5
6 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

7 Q You get a special tattoo...

8
9 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

10 Q All that stuff.

11
12 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

13 Q ...this, that and the other, whatever.

14
15 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

16 Q Okay so you're doing the same thing, people are doing the same thing on this
17 bus.

18 A Okay.

19 Q Half the people on this, how, there's like what 30 people on, you said there
20 was about 30 people on "Bus C". so in order for people to, for "Bus C": to
21 happen, the tradition, everybody that's on "Bus C" goes into "The Bus".
22 Right? Cause you're saying you...

23
24 A If you wanna do it, yeah if you wanna do it.
25

1 Q Right if you're, if you wanna be on "Bus C" then you're gonna be part of the
2 tradition, you're gonna help the other guys go through.

3 A Okay.

4 Q You're, changing of the guard.

5 A Right.

6 Q You're gonna, so you get on "The Bus" to like, cause you found out 3 people
7 are gonna go through, Lissette goes, the other guy goes, then, then uh
8 Champion goes. And then you get off "The Bus" and you leave. Do you
9 remember what happen after, with Champion afterwards, did he say
10 anything?
11

12 A I, I left before everybody.

13 Q You left before everybody.

14 A I left before everybody, I, I seen Lissette, I kinda seen the other dude and
15 when Rob went, when he, you know what I'm saying, when he was starting
16 that's when I got off "The Bus".
17

18 Q You do understand we have video footage of "The Bus".

19 A Right.

20 Q And we see everybody getting off.

21 A Right and...

22 Q (Inaudible)

1 A ...if you, if you really seen the video...

2 Q I have.

3
4 A ...yeah you had to see that I was before everybody.

5 Q Right. But not like, Robert gets on the bus and you're like bam...

6
7 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

8 Q Ten minutes later...

9
10 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

11 Q ...and then 10 minutes later everybody else gets off. Everybody else gets off
12 after, after you too. Everybody leaves. Not everybody stays...

13 A Right see that but that's...

14 Q ...on the bus because...

15
16 Athat's only...

17 Q ...only a couple of people were helping Robert to get through stayed on "The
18 Bus".

19
20 A That, that's, that's only the people that's in the back, way back. It's a big bus
21 now, it's, it's, it, it, is...

22 Q You don't, you don't stick around to congratulate him, you know, I mean in
23 the military you get promoted, you get like your, your, you get your...

24 A Man it's hot...

25 Q ...(inaudible) and you smack it in there...

1 A It's hot on "The Bus".
2 Q Nothing, you don't stay on "The Bus".
3
4 A Uh uh (Negative) it's hot.
5 Q Why is, why is all the lights turned off and everything else, why?
6
7 A I don't know, I just follow the rules man.
8 Q And how did you find out the rules?
9
10 A They, they say the lights are off, it's, it's nothing to be said. The lights are off.
11 Q Everything is just understood?
12
13 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)
14 Q I mean we know that there's not general orders or policies written, it's just...
15
16 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)
17 Q Right.
18
19 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)
20 Q ...word of mouth.
21
22 A Right.
23 Q But at what point, that's what we trying to get. At what point do you learn that
24 hey here's what's goes down. You know once you are part of "Bus C" you
25 know you have...
A I guess it's probably...

1 Q ...first section, middle section...

2 A ...I think it's probably...

3 Q ...and the end section.

4 A ...a, a, you learn as you go.

5
6 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

7 Q Cause you gotta be told.

8
9 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

10 Q But you have to understand if me, I get on "The Bus", my ass is gonna stand
11 that and be like alright what do we do next. At some, you know what I'm
12 saying?
13

14 A But here...

15 Q (Inaudible)...

16 A ...but see it, it, it, it's, it's, it's, it's different, it's different for everybody because
17 okay, it, I say it's different for everybody because yeah there are rules but you
18 know what I'm saying I did it for me you know what I'm saying.
19

20 Q Okay. And, and trust me Caleb I know in doing this job a long time, I don't
21 want you to come out and say look my job was as soon as he started walking
22 I knock the fuck out of him.
23

24 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

25 Q (Laughter)

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q Because, you know what I'm saying?

3
4 A But that's, but look that's, and, and, and, and here's the thing with "The Bus",
5 if, if you did talk to somebody they'll tell you that everybody, even if you on
6 "Bus", everybody on "Bus C" doesn't, don't, you know what I'm saying, some
7 people just watch.

8 Q Right. But there's gotta be, what we're looking at is in, if we were all part of
9 "Bus C"...

10
11 A Right.

12 Q ...okay, at some point we have to say okay look I'm sure there's things that
13 you can do and things that are kinda frowned upon. I would think that like you
14 know trying to put somebody's eyes out would not be a good thing. Um
15 maybe in limiting, you know you can tell when a person is standing up you
16 know and, and they're walking. Certain areas...

17
18 A Right.

19 Q ...to hit, to you know...

20 A Oh yeah...

21 Q ...knee spiking the legs or soemthin like that.

22
23 A ...no, no, no, okay oh you talking 'bout like, oh no face, no, like you can't hit
24 nobody in the face or you know the spine or anything like that.

1 Q Okay can you use anything or is it just hands and knees? Anything on your
2 body, you're not hitting them with a drum stick...

3 A Uh uh (Negative)

4 Qor...

5 A Well, well not, not in my case.

6 Q (Laughter)

7 A See I'm, I'm...

8 Q Well actually you know what you could probaby poke somebody a nice rib
9 shot with a drum stick.

10 A See I never seen that, well I, I, I didn't...

11 Q Hyperthecially speaking...

12 A I....

13 Q ...if one were to have...

14 A ...I didn't, I didn't, I didn't...

15 Q ...a drum stick.

16 A ...I, you can't see that so you would never know ...

17 Q Okay I can pretty much say...

18 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

19 Q (Inaudible)...

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q ...that no one's gonna hit someone with a tuba...

3
4 A Right.

5 Q ...cause there's not enough shit in there.

6
7 A Right.

8 Q Even though a tuba would be something that would probably hurt.

9 A When your adrenaline pumping and you going through it like it's, it's fast, it's
10 quick, it's not, it's something that...

11
12 Q Oh trust, I know.

13 A Oh, oh, it, okay...

14 Q When I got my service (inaudible) you walk the gauntlet...

15
16 A Okay.

17 Q ...when guys are knocking the shit outta you.

18
19 A Okay, okay it's, it's, it's something that's not, it's something that's not fast. I
20 mean it's, it's something that's not, like oh you just thinking 'bout it, like oh you
21 see this, you see that. It's something that you just going through, you trying to
22 run you know what I'm saying.

23 Q Right.

24 A So you don't, you don't pay attention to everything.

1 Q Right. But in the same respect because you're, my goal is the person getting
2 on "The Bus" is to get my ass from point A to point B...

3 A Point B in a hurry.

4
5 Q ...as quick as I can.

6 A As quick as I can.

7
8 Q And everybody's stopping and, because...

9 A Right.

10 Q ...that's just the way it is.

11
12 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

13 Q CJ how long did you hold on to each person going through? That's your job, I
14 know what your job was. I know what you...

15 A I...

16
17 Q ...I know what you, you're a strong dude. You were hold, you were holding
18 him, holding him just like you said, you were trying to get through so people
19 are gonna try to hold you back and people are gonna try to push you through.
20 I know that you being on "The Bus" as a seated member you're trying to hold
21 him so they can't get through.

22 A And, and here's the thing, with, like I said it's a percussion bus for me.

23
24 Q Right.

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q How long, how long were you hanging on to, to Robert before somebody
3 pulled him off from you?

4
5 A I, I didn't even get to him.

6 Q That's how your name came up CJ.

7
8 A I didn't, that, that's the point...

9 Q Your name came up because they were, somebody was pulling him away
10 from you, that's it, that's how your name came up.

11
12 A But, but that...

13 Q If you started, listen...

14
15 A ...but that, but that's a lie, it, I didn't, I didn't...

16 Q It's not a lie because here's the thing, you came in here and I appreciate you
17 being, you're being honest, you are being honest. But you weren't when you
18 first got in here and you said you weren't even on "The Bus", now we know
19 that you were, we need to know the other people that did it, we need to know
20 what he was hit with to make sure that he wasn't killed with anything.

21
22 A I don't, but you, now you...

23 Q You're holding on to somebody ain't gonna kill them. You holding on to
24 somebody isn't gonna make him stop breathing unless you were holding on to
25 his mouth or choking him which nobody said you were doing. But to say that
you were on "The Bus" and then you just immediately got off (fingers

1 snapped) as soon as the drum major got on that's, that's just crap. We know
2 it's crap. They, the, the people are telling us drum majors are like the police,
3 you get a shot to hit them you hit them...

4 A But that's, that's what I'm saying...

5 Q ...and you weren't hitting him.

6 A ...I'm in the front. I'm in the front...

7 Q You weren't hitting him.

8
9
10 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

11 Q Right and we're not...

12
13 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

14 Q So you were holding on to him not hitting him.

15
16 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

17 Q And we're not saying that you hit him. Like he said when we take this it's a
18 big picture okay and each person that we have is another piece of the puzzle
19 okay. And when we have the story I'm taking, I've got witnesses saying CJ's
20 in the front holding him on, here's my piece of the puzzle. And then as it
21 moves down further and we talk to other people then we get these pieces of
22 the puzzle and then it all comes in. And once again it's to be able to show
23 either that this is an unfortunate accident that happened from a tradition that
24 has gone on for fucking every.

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q (Inaudible)

3
4 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

5 Q Or somebody intentionally meant to fuck him up from whatever reason which
6 we don't believe happened. But this is where, unfortunately we need to talk to
7 each person...

8 A Right.

9
10 Q ...and take it and...

11 A And I, and I, and I under...

12 Q ...make that puzzle.

13
14 A ...and I understand that.

15 Q And I don't want you to think that by you saying yeah I held him, because we
16 know you did. Cause you said you did and then after he got by you that was
17 it, he made it to the back...

18
19 A But it, it's not , it's not...

20 Q ...and you left.

21 A ...it's not like a hold, it's, it's a, it's a will power, it's, it's in your mind.

22
23 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

24 Q Like what do you mean, show, give me an example.

1 A In your, in your mind meaning I'm not really holding you I'm just standing
2 there. It's your will power to push through me, you know what I'm saying,
3 people that's in the front you don't actually hold them you just stand in their
4 way. I'm not holding you you just pushing through me, once you push
5 through me you gone.

6 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**
7

8 Q Okay. So but in knowing how that is embracing through I'm probably going to
9 be almost like a blocking drill, you know as opposed of...

10 A Right.

11 Q ...running I'm going back and then as soon as you get by me.
12

13 A Right.

14 Q Okay is that...
15

16 A Right, yeah as soon as you go by me you gone.

17 Q Okay so that...
18

19 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

20 Q So is that how...
21

22 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

23 Q ...makes it, if I'm, if I'm standing...

24 A Right there.

25 Q ...in the middle and I got the seats here.

1 A Right.

2 Q And he's coming down...

3

4 A Right.

5 Q ...I may brace into my seat, like where my leg is, and I'm gonna...

6

7 A Nah.

8 Q ...come in and...

9

10 A Uh uh (Negative), nah you got, yeah.

11 Q ...not, not so much...

12 A Nah you, nah you...

13

14 Q ...this.

15 A ...wouldn't even do that you'll just stand there, you'll, you'll try to...

16

17 Q But you're gonna force back some you know what I'm saying.

18 A He gon' push at you and you gon' push at him.

19 Q Right.,

20

21 A You know what I'm saying, you, you don't want him to get...

22 Q I'm not talking where you're running down the hallway...

23

24 A Right, nah.

25 Q ...and throwing a elbow shot to...

1 A So it, it's a bus...

2 Q ...his gut.

3
4 Ayou, you can't...

5 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

6
7 Q CJ...

8 A ...you can't, you can't, I'm, I, let me explain...

9
10 Q Okay.

11 A ...it all the way to you.

12 Q Okay, alright go ahead.

13
14 A It's a bus, it's a pathway, you can't do anything but stand there you know what
15 I'm saying.

16 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

17
18 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

19 A It's not like I could, oh rush all the way back here and run full speed at him
20 with all these people, all I could do is stand there and try to, you know what
21 I'm saying, just be a blocking guard. He pushed...

22 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

23
24 Q But then, but then you say that there's a rule that there's no face hitting.

25 A Right.

1 Q That means that there is other kind of hitting that's allowed.

2 A No that means, that means...

3 Q Cause why would you put a rule out there, (stuttering), if you're gonna stand
4 there...

5 A But I'm not back that far.

6 Q ...stand there...

7 A I'm not back that far to know, you know what I'm saying, I don't know if they, if
8 they do you know what I'm saying. That, that's just a rule, that's...

9 Q (Inaudible)

10 A ...it, because you can hear it "Don't hit him in the face, don't hit him in the
11 face", when I went through.

12 (Laughter)

13 A You could hear it.

14 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

15 Q Trust me like he said we know. Shots get thrown, knee spikes go because in the
16 side of your leg, you ever had somebody come up and thump you in that part, it's
17 a (inaudible), a lot of nerve endings. You hit somebody just right it hurts like a
18 bitch (fingers snapped) and will drop them just like that. It's funny, we used to do
19 it all the time. Person would be at the drinking fountain, you come up, BOOM...

20 A (Laughter)

1 Q ...fucking drop cause that shit hurts.

2 A But let me, let me...

3 Q But these are what we're looking at.

4 A ...let, let, let me, let me understand, let me, if you wanna stop anybody, anybody,
5 if, even if I wanted to say they ask you, you wanna stop, you wanna quit, you
6 wanna quit, you wanna quit, you quit, you say no. If he wanna to, to stop...

7 Q Right you continue on because no one wants to be viewed as a puss.

8 A No it...

9 Q Because you know as soon as you say stop even if, you're gonna get dogged...

10 A That mean they just won't let...

11 Q ...and dogged...

12 A It, it just wasn't for you.

13 Q Exactly.

14 A But, but I'm saying they give you...

15 Q You see what I'm saying.

16 A ...the option is what I'm saying.

17 Q And like he said all...

18 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

19 Q (Inaudible)...

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q ...all we're looking for is just the thing and the fact that nobody's coming off
3 with cinder blocks...

4
5 A Oh nah, nah.

6 Q ...or anything like that.

7
8 A Never.

9 Q That's a simple thing where unfortunately after the fact you know...

10
11 A Right.

12 Q ...he passed away.

13 A But see, and, and I'm giving you everything that, you know, I know because I,
14 I, I did it in 2011 not, you know what I'm saying, 2009 or anything like that.
15 This is my first year on "The Bus".

16
17 Q Okay when you went through did anybody hit you in the head?

18 A No.

19 Q (Laughter) um did you get knee spiked in the side?

20
21 A Nah. Because I was, I was rushing fast.

22 Q You go through quick?

23
24 A Right.

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Did you hurt at all?

3
4 A Uh uh (Negative)

5 Q You didn't feel it later on, I mean two people threw up after this one. Lissette
6 didn't throw up but the two drum majors did.

7
8 A (Inaudible)

9 Q And they are big dudes.

10 A Right.

11
12 Q Lissette's a girl so that's why we're curious about how...

13 A But you gotta...

14 Q ...what, what kind of thing are you talking...

15
16 A ...but you gotta ask were they drinking or anything.

17 Q They were at the game, they just got back from the game so there's a lot of
18 drinking going on...

19
20 A Were they drinking...

21 Q ...during, during the march.

22 A ...or anything.

23
24 Q I thought you guys had to be in a certain formation...

25 A Did you hear what I said?

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q (Laughter)

3
4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

5 Q Yeah I heard what you said.

6
7 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

8 Q So I'm assuming a lot of the times the water, and water...

9 A I, everybod, to each his own.

10
11 Q (Laughter)

12 A To each his own.

13
14 Q Got you

15 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

16 Q Okay. Um...

17
18 A My thing is when I went through "The Bus" I never failed, you know it was like
19 bro you almost there, bro you almost there, bro, they help you you know what
20 I'm saying.

21 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

22 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

23
24 A Yeah some people push you but a ultimate goal, ultimate goal you gon' get
25 there you know what I'm saying...

1 Q Exactly.

2 A ...and once you get there you're relieved.

3 Q Sometimes it's gonna be easier, sometimes it's gonna take a little longer.
4 And, and this is what we know.
5

6 A It, it depends on how many people...

7 Q Obviously...

8 A ...on "The Bus".

9 Q Right. But in going through, understand our job right now as we said,
10 because this is national shit.
11

12 A Right.

13 Q If it, it'd be different if this were, you know the university in North Dakota's
14 marching band.
15

16 A Right.

17 Q Uh I was stationed in North Dakota...

18 A But, and but, but what, what...

19 Q ...they don't have shit, this is FAMU, this is one of the...

20 A ...but what people, but what people...

21 Q ...best bands in the world.

22 A ...under, what people are not understanding that at the end of the day we all
23 love each other, you know what I'm saying, this is...
24
25

1 Q And there's no...

2 A ...it's, it's a love thing.

3 Q ...and there's no doubt ...

4 A You know what I'm saying.

5 Q ...and that's why we're here...

6 A Of course nobody would try to hurt them.

7 Q That's is why we are here because you have to understand the general public
8 in the big scope of things and looking out, looking in are going oh this had
9 been going on for blah, blah, blah, and they intentionally did this shit which
10 everybody knows. Our job like he said is to help disprove as much as prove a
11 crime was committed. If I can say (inaudible), it's tradition, it's something that
12 happen. Unfortunately someone died at the end of it. So of course this could be
13 going on for years and like he said if it were another school with North Dakota,
14 BFE, whatever it may be but you start talking FAMU, BCC, Gramling, Southern,
15 any of your big huge bands...

16 A Right.

17 Q ...that are just known. No one gives a shit about the football team, they suck.

18 A Right.

19 Q Always have, it's all about the band.

20 A But all, I ...

1 Q And because this is why it's so national and we are just doing everything to be
2 able to say look here's exactly what happen so everyone on the outside of
3 these big news organizations, we can say look this is what happened
4 because it's a lot easier for people to understand that an accident occurred
5 instead of some intentional thing you know that was planned.

6 A Right.

7
8 Q Does that make sense?

9 A Right.

10
11 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

12 Q CJ for the, just for, just so we can know, all the people that are on "The Bus",
13 that were on "The Bus" this time, they were part of what happen.

14 A I, I wouldn't know.

15
16 Q How, how many people were on "The Bus" about?

17 A Probably like 30.

18 Q Was that about as many people as were riding "The Bus"?

19
20 A (No audible response)

21 Q Was there anybody that you know that was on "The Bus" that was suppose to
22 ride "The Bus" that you didn't see?

23
24 A It was The Classic, every, everybody that rode "The Bus" that...

25 Q Was on "The Bus".

1 A ...was on "The Bus".

2 Q Okay. So about, so whatever the, whatever the roster says is those are the
3 people that are on "The Bus".
4

5 A That's on "The Bus" (inaudible).

6 Q And uh, uh as, as, you know there's only, only 3 people went through the
7 ritual that night, Lissett, the other one and then Champion?
8

9 A Right.

10 Q Lisette was fine going through it, the other one a little bit of throw up, then
11 Champion we all know what happened to him, that's it.
12

13 A Right.

14 Q Did anything else happen after that? People going, you know freaking out
15 that, that you know he wasn't...
16

17 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

18 Q Once they found out he...
19

20 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

21 Q ...yeah once they found out.
22

23 A It, that's the point, a lot of people leave, like one, if you, like for us "The Bus"
24 is a long but.
25

Q Right.

1 A Once somebody go through it you know what I'm saying, that's, it's, it's a
2 quick process but you know what I'm saying some people don't wanna stay,
3 "The Bus" is hot you know what I'm saying, some people get up and leave you
4 know what I'm saying. I'm all the way in the beginning of "The Bus".

5 Q Do you know where "The Bus" driver was?

6
7 A No.

8 Q Do you know how "The Bus" got opened?

9
10 A No.

11 Q Um did uh, when you all came back from the school, from the, from the
12 Orange, Orange Bowl whatever it was, when y'all came back from there were
13 the, were the faculty on "The Bus" with you guys when you were, when you
14 drove back?

15 A When we drove back?

16
17 Q Yeah.

18 A Uh yeah.

19 Q When you, when they left did, did you all just stick around to, so that this
20 could be done, you all could leave?

21
22 A Right.

23 Q Okay so when they, as soon as the faculty left the other 3 showed up and
24 then everthing went down, everybody left.

25 A Right.

1 Q Okay. So it was pretty much, that's, that's the way the thing goes, the
2 tradition goes, if you're gonna do "The Bus" as soon as the game is over get
3 your ass over here so we can do it so we can all go to get some grub.

4 A Right.

5
6 Q Okay. Um did anybody, did you hear people help Robert after it was over?
7 Did he say he was having a hard time breathing and people help him?

8 A Nope. To my knowledge he was fine.

9
10 Q Okay you never heard him say anything bad?

11 A No never.

12 Q Did you, you didn't see anybody throw up or nothing like that?

13
14 A No.

15 Q Okay. When did you find out that he, something happen to him?

16
17 A Probably when I was leaving, when I was in the car coming to Tallahassee.

18 Q Who told you?

19
20 A MJ.

21 Q MJ did, did she call you?

22 A No somebody call her.

23 Q Somebody called her, so you guys were on the way. So Monica's your girl,
24 she's, is she your baby...
25

A Nah she, it's my friend.

1 Q Your friend but you were going to where, to Palm Beach or you were going
2 to...

3 A No we was coming back to Tallahassee cause I had nobody to watch my
4 daughter the next day.

5
6 Q Okay.

7 A Because initially my baby mama was suppose to go to The Classic, my truck
8 was suppose to be done but she didn't come, we was just gon' stay and I was
9 gon' drive back with her.

10
11 Q Okay.

12 A Because she had to work the next morning.

13
14 Q Okay so you had to leave early?

15 A Yeah my things were packed that, that Saturday before we even left.
16 Because she stayed in my room so either way if everybody would a crossed I
17 was leaving anyway.

18 Q So how many people stayed at your room?

19
20 A In my room?

21 Q Yeah who was, who was the people that was in your room so that we can, I
22 can, I can go up to them and go hey did CJ leave before or whatever.

23 A Uh...

24
25 Q Cause everybody else spent the night right?

1 A Right but I could, I could call MJ for you right now.

2 Q I know but...

3

4 A Yeah.

5 Q ...MJ's your girl, not, she's your friend. I wanna get other people...

6

7 A Oh.

8 Q ...that, without you talking to them to go yeah CJ, he left. That's what, I

9 wanna, I wanna...

10 A The people, the people...

11

12 Q ...I want somebody to corroborate.

13 A ...the people that was in my room left with the parents.

14

15 Q So your room got empty that night and nobody else stayed there that night?

16 A Uh when I was there no. When I got there nobody was in the room.

17

18 Q I mean stayed overnight, that stayed there that night, that slept there, then

19 went and got on "The Bus" the next morning.

20 A I, I was gone.

21 Q Who was in your room? All those, all the people, all the, how many people

22 were in your room?

23

24 A It was 3 of us include, well 4 including me.

25 Q Okay so 4 total, Monica stayed with you that night so there were 5 in that room that night?

1 A Right.

2 Q Okay the next night after, after Robert died they all, all the other 3 people left

3 with their family.

4

5 A Say I was gone before...

6 Q Okay but...

7

8 A Yeah.

9 Q ...I'm just saying, you're saying that that those 3 people left with their family.

10 A Right they, see because...

11

12 Q And you left with Monica...

13 A ...they're from Palm Beach you know what I'm saying so no...

14

15 Q So nobody stayed in that room that night?

16 A Yeah they all went, they parents had timeshares at, every year, like even last

17 year when they was with me, my homeboy was with me, we was in the same

18 room last year. His um, his parents always get a timeshare in Orlando so he

19 spend time with his mama and his dad ...

20 Q (Inaudible)...

21

22 A ...and they come pick him up from the hotel so we never, we, and my dad

23 was in Orlando you know what I'm saying.

24 Q Okay. Alright. Let me (inaudible) real quick I'll be right back.

25

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q Just to kinda wrap things up as well um once again just to be able to
3 corroborate your story with everything else. And I don't want you to think that
4 it's snitching or anything else. Because I'm not going to use your name at all
5 okay. Just like we did in this interview here, when we said we've talked to
6 other people that were there that had named you. Who else was on "The
7 Bus", that's all we need to know so we can be able to talk to them if we
8 already haven't. And this doesn't come back to anything to be with your
9 name or anything like that. It just help corroborate the story.
10

11 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

12 Q We're all good. Do you swear everything you told us today was the truth, the
13 whole truth and nothing but?

14 A (No audible response)
15

16 Q You have to say it.

17 A Oh yeah.
18

19 Q (Laughter) okay. Um alright uh we didn't treat you bad right? We didn't beat
20 up on you, we didn't hit you with a phone book like you see on television?

21 A Uh uh (Negative)
22

23 Q Nothing like that, okay. Alright man. This will be the end of the interview, it is
24 uh 5:15 p.m.
25

1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

3 

4 _____
5 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF CALEB JACKSON 2**
2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**
3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**
4

5
6 (Inaudible talking)

7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

8
9 Q Alright so let me get this straight CJ, the people that he just, the doc uh Detective
10 Phelan just went down the list, those people were present when this incident
11 occurred with Robert, is that correct?

12 A That's everybody there.

13 Q Now just look at me and answer my question. The people that you just went
14 down this list and you said yes to Detective Phelan, those people were on "The
15 Bus"...

16
17 A That's everybody that, that after the game got back on that bus and we went to
18 the hotel, that's everybody that I know that was on "The Bus", that's what I said...

19 Q And they participated in the crossing over?

20
21 A And see and that's the point I don't know cause when people say get on "The
22 Bus", I just gave them who was on "The Bus".

23 **(UNKNOWN SPEAKER)**

24 Q Cause we've got GPS.
25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Is, is your name, is your name on that list?

3
4 A (Inaudible)

5 (Background talking)

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7
8 Q Okay did you put a check mark on that, as you being there?

9
10 A (Inaudible)

11 Q So you're on "The Bus" with these other people?

12 A Right I came back.

13 Q Okay. Okay so you were present when this occurred?

14
15 A In the front.

16 Q Okay. You cover this?

17
18 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

19 Q But, but basically what he's saying is that when they, it, the way the, the way the,
20 the ritual works is that you get on "The Bus", you go back, the, the uh, the older
21 people get off "The Bus" and if somebody, if, if there's gonna be a ritual it
22 happens right then. So you stay on "The Bus", the other people come on, do it
23 and everybody that, everybody leaves and goes their separate ways to eat
24 dinner.

1 (UNKNOWN SPEAKER)

2 Q Oh that's why you saying that everybody, you sad Un huh (Affirmative)...

3
4 A Right that's, cause everybody had got back...

5 Q ...the older people...

6
7 A ...on "The Bus".

8 Q Right and with the exclusion of the ones that have X's.

9
10 A Right.

11 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

12 Q But they, they, they, they either, they either stay with their parents for a, for a
13 tailgate party or they went on, they went some other way.

14
15 (UNKNOWN SPEAKER)

16 Q Okay.

17 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

18
19 Q These are the people that were on "The Bus" leaving...

20 (UNKNOWN SPEAKER)

21 Q And rode back.

22 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

23
24 Q ...leaving the Orange, the Orange Bowl, coming to the hotel and then that is
25 when everything happens and then everybody else gets off "The Bus"

1 (UNKNOWN SPEAKER)

2 Q Okay.

3 A So I gave you what I know...

4 Q Okay.

5 A ...you know what I'm saying but the other people I, I wouldn't know.

6 Q I see.

7 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

8
9 Q Okay so you were present when the 3 went through right

10 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

11 Q Yes he was present ...

12 A Yes.

13 Q ...when the 3 went through.

14 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

15
16 Q Okay and the doors stayed shut right?

17 A No.

18
19 Q Nobody leaves until it's over with all 3?

20 A Nah some, you can leave. You can leave.

21 Q Okay.

22
23 A If, if you did it before you can leave any time.

24 Q Okay but these 3 that went through they stayed on "The Bus", the first 2 before
25 Robert stayed on "The Bus" until it was done?

1 A Right.

2 Q Until Robert was done.

3
4 A Right.

5 Q And they were at the back of "The Bus"?

6
7 A Right.

8 Q Okay. So they didn't leave?

9
10 A No.

11 Q Okay. So of the group of people that you checked off here who were there while
12 these 3 were going through their uh cross over?

13 A The way "The Bus" work, I'm in the front.

14
15 Q Right.

16 A And I can't, it's so dark I can't see in the back. So...

17 Q Well you know who's on "The Bus" already.

18
19 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

20 Q (Inaudible), nobody got, when, when you got to the Orange, when you got back
21 to the hotel nobody got off "The Bus".

22 A Probably, its 2 pe, I think, it's like 2 or 3 people that actually got off "The Bus".

23 Q So of the people that you checked off...

24 A But I don't know...

25 Q Right you don't know which ones got off.

A ...by name, yeah.

1 Q But, but you know which ones got on. Cause you're sitting in the front of "The
2 Bus"...

3 A Right.

4 Q ...everybody gotta walk by and you...

5 A Yeah I see everybody...

6 Q So the got on "The Bus"...

7 A Right.

8 Q ...and only maybe 3 people got off "The Bus".

9 A Right but I don't know by name who, who actually ...

10 Q Girls or guys?

11 A I think its guys.

12 Q So all the girls that got on "The Bus" stayed on "The Bus".

13 A Yeah.

14 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

15 Q Okay so...

17 A (Inaudible)

18 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

19 Q I know.

20 (Background talking)

22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Alright. Can you, can you do me a favor?

24 A Yes.

25

1 Q Can you give him that list and you read off, cause I'm, I'm a little slow here.
2 Read off the names of the people that were on "The Bus" when the 3 had their
3 crossing over, to me please.
4 A I don't know who...
5 Q Just read, just read off the names of the people that you saw while the crossing
6 over happened over...
7 A See I didn't, I, I only, all I marked off was the people that came back with, I don't,
8 I didn't see nobody on "The Bus". You don't actually...
9 Q CJ look at me.
10 A I...
11 Q You were at the front of "The Bus" dude.
12 A Right.
13 Q Okay.
14 A So I can't see...
15 Q All I want...
16 A ...in the back.
17 Q Okay but the ones that came over to "The Bus", that came on "The Bus" that you
18 did see walk to the back. How many people were at the back of "The Bus"?
19 A The people that's, that's already back there.
20 Q Okay. Well, well they got off "The Bus" and they got back on "The Bus".

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Uh uh (Negative), no, no.

3 A No.

4 Q No.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6 Q No.

7 A No. No.

8 Q They stayed on "The Bus"?

9 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

10 Q Them people rode...

11 A They stayed on "The Bus".

12 Q ...back, them people rode back from the game, they stayed on "The Bus".

13 A They stayed on "The Bus".

14 Q He said maybe 2 or 3 of those got off of "The Bus".

15 A Right.

16 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

17 Q Okay. Read me the names of the people that right now you can recall on, from

18 that list, that were there when the 3 had the crossing over. Specifically with

19 Robert, tell me the names.

20 A It said Jessie (Inaudible)

21 Q Jessie who?

22 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

23 Q Baskin.

24 A Baskin.

25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Okay.

3 A There's uh Sarelle Saneal, Ryan Dean, uh I'm not sure about, Aaron Goldstein
4 and Adrian Green, Jamond Green, uh Ashley Hodge, Caleb Jackson which is
5 me, Bryan Jones, Jeffrey Manning um Dontae Martin, Charles McCay, Benjamin
6 MacNamee, uh Henry Nesbit, Travis Robertson, uh Lissette Sanchez and that's
7 it.

8 Q Okay all those people you just read to me were present when the last one, which
9 was Robert, went through his thing correct?

10 A (No audible response)

11 Q CJ.

12 A To my knowledge.

13 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

14 Q (Inaudible)

15 A I'm giving you everything I know.

16 Q I, I under, I understand.

17 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

18 Q Okay.

19 A (Inaudible)...

20 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

21 Q I understand, I understand what you saying.

22 A Right.

23 Q Okay.

24 A To my knowledge.

25

1 Q I, what I'm saying, what I'm saying though were you at, still at the front of "The
2 Bus" when it was over with?

3 A I left after Robert went pass me.

4 Q After Robert went pass you you left?

5 A Yeah you can leave any time...

6 Q But see Robert was one of the last ones to come off "The Bus".

7 A Right.

8 Q So that, how many people went pass you that you saw on that list?

9 A Only Robert. Robert, Robert went pass me after he gone...

10 Q Did uh that girl...

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q But nobody can leave while this is going on.

13 A Yes, yes you can.

14 Q I mean be nobody did because they have to walk up the gauntlet or this...

15 A No...

16 Q ...the, the isle way.

17 A ...I'm, I'm in the front...

18 Q Right.

19 A ...in the very front of "The Bus".

20 Q Of "The Bus".

21 A Meaning after he...

22 Q So if somebody in the back of the...

23 A ...after he leaves me I keep going straight because it's nothing else, he's the last
24 one to go.

25 Q Okay but before Robert got off "The Bus" what we're trying to...

1 A Oh who, see I, I was the first one to get off "The Bus" so I, I, don't know who...

2 Q Okay but before you got off "The Bus" which is now it's the third person that's
3 gone through this, none of these people have left, they can't cause they're,
4 everybody's still going through this process.

5 A Right.

6 Q Correct?

7 A Right.

8 Q Okay.

9 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

10 Q So from the time that it started to the time you left nobody got off "The Bus"?

11 A Nobody that I marked down got off "The Bus" to my knowledge, correct.

12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

13 Q Did anybody else get on "The Bus" during this?

14 A After Rob...

15 Q Once it started...

16 A Everybody was on...

17 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

18 Q Once it started.

19 A Uh no.

20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21 Q No cause...

22 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

23 Q Right.

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q ...is it fair to say, correct me if I'm wrong, that once it starts there's no
3 admittance, every, the door is closed.

4 A Yeah the door is closed.

5 Q Okay and you can't get off...

6 A But not...

7 Q ...there's somebody...

8 A ...but...

9 Q ...standing out of "The Bus"...

10 A Somebody, now somebody can get, like if you did it before you can get on.

11 Q Yeah, yeah I got that, I got that, I'm just talking...

12 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

13 Q Okay (inaudible)...

14 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

15 Q ...about participating in it.

16 A But yeah nobody can't get on.

17 Q Okay cause there's somebody standing at the door.

18 A Yeah.

19 Q Who's standing at the door?

20 A Don't know. I never...

21 Q Who did you assign to stand at the door?

22 A I just did "The Bus" 2011 so I wouldn't know who, who they assigned.

23 Q No that day, the night that Robert went through, who did you assign to stand at
24 the door outside say keep the door shut?

25 A Who, you saying you, I ...

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q No you, you in general, the people on "The Bus", who was assigned...

3 A I don't know, I did, I, I never ...

4 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

5 Q Was it Frank or was it John; you know who was standing there.

6 A No I don't, not if I...

7 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

8 Q You had to go back out by them to get off "The Bus".

9 A It wasn't nobody there. It was nobody there.

10 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

11 Q But...

12 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

13 Q Okay let me ask you this then real quick. During the process I guess Lis, the girl
14 went first, the female?

15 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

16 Q Lissette.

17 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

18 Q Lissette.

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Okay she goes through, Robert came up late if I'm not mistaken. Do you recall it
21 that way or do you not?

22 A I thought everybody was on "The Bus".

23 Q You thought everybody was on "The Bus" from the beginning?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Okay that's all I need to know.

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Did anybody come to help Robert?

3 A Well everybody...

4 Q Right no, no...

5 A ...everybody helps everybody.

6 Q ...right I realize that but did anybody come specifically to help Robert to get
7 through?

8 A (No audible response)

9 Q Not, they didn't help Lissette, they didn't help the second person, they only
10 helped Robert.

11 A Well I wasn't back there to know.

12 Q You were in the front, this is, they start at the front...

13 A Right.

14 Q ...of "The Bus".

15 A Right.

16 Q So...

17 A So it's, it's all on...

18 Q ...who's helping him push, as they walk by, as Robert goes by you who's with
19 him?

20 A It's just manpowered.

21 Q What...

22 A (Inaudible).

23 Q ...okay who is his manpower?

24 A His self.

25 Q Nobody else.

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q Nobody's pushing from behind?

3 A It's not, it's, it's, cause it's, it's, it's not ...

4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

5 Q Nobody's helping him at that moment?

6 A It's not that, it's not that (inaudible), "The Bus", "The Bus" goes in the, the
7 beginning of "The Bus" is the lightest part. You go through it, you push through
8 the, the people in the front just stand there you know as guards you know what
9 I'm saying, just to make you tired, you know what I'm saying so you know you
10 push your way through "The Bus". Now as it goes, I guess as it gets deeper you
11 know my, as the, as how I did it you know what I'm saying, it kinda gets a little
12 more like now they're trying to really hold you back from getting there you know
13 what I'm saying. So that's when somebody helps you.

14 Q They let you into the mob and then they keep you in the mob.

15 A Yeah now you gotta force your way out of it.

16 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

17 Q Kinda like a march pit.

18 A Kind, not, not like a, I done heard about...

19 (Laughter)

20 A ...a march pit, nah not, nothing like.

21 Q Well in the same essence, like you said it gets a little worse. Now you did tell us
22 that as it was going down you could hear people saying "Not in the head".

23 A No that was for me (laughter).

24 Q Oh but I thought you said that night as well.

1 A No the, I said for me that's how I know, when you ask me how do I know the
2 rules (inaudible), because I heard it when they said it to me, don't, don't, you
3 know what I'm saying, don't touch him in the head or in the, or in the face or in
4 the ribs or anything other than the nature.

5 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

6 Q So where, where, where can you, based on that where, where can you, where
7 were they allowed to hit Robert?

8 A Well...

9 Q Or the 3 that went through.

10 A It's, it's not really, I wouldn't know because it's not really a hitting thing. It's more
11 so of off his alignment trying to keep you back from getting there.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Uh...

14 Q You tell me, describe to me, I'm, I'm using the wrong term.

15 A Right.

16 Q You describe to me...

17 A It, it...

18 Q ...what is it that that one person does to keep them from going back, describe it
19 to me, what did, what did you see them doing to keep him back?

20 A Well I, I can't see, I can't see that far back.

21 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

22 Q Let me help you. It was described to me that you were near the rear of "The
23 Bus". You had Robert and you held him from, away from the wall and it took 2 or
24 3 people to push him through you to get to the back wall.

25 A No I'm in the front of "The Bus".

1 Q Okay see; see that's why it's good always to talk for yourself man.
2 A Right. I'm in the front of "The Bus".
3 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
4 Q So we're...
5 A Because I can't, I can't be in the back of "The Bus".
6 Q Why?
7 A Because I, because I just did it.
8 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
9 Q You're under, you're, to them you're...
10 A 2011, yeah to them you know what I'm saying...
11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
12 Q Oh so that's, you're, you're not ranked to go back there.
13 A Right.
14 Q Okay. So who's ranked to go back there? From that list tell me whose, whose
15 ranked to be in the back.
16 A (No audible response)
17 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**
18 Q Where were the other drum majors?
19 A (No audible response)
20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**
21 Q CJ. From the list...
22 A All y'all, that's what, I'm looking, I'm looking...
23 Q It ain't, you just read off of it, it ain't that...
24 A No I'm not...
25 Q ...hard, come on.

1 A No I'm trying to see.

2 Q Who's at the back of "The Bus" from that list CJ?

3 A (No audible response)

4 Q The name that you're looking at right now, tell me which one it is. that's the one
5 you're stuck on.

6 A (No audible response)

7 Q CJ look at me. Are you telling me the truth right now?

8 A I promise I am.

9 Q Okay.

10 A I, I, I, I ...

11 Q But don't stop...

12 A ...I, I, I could, I could...

13 Q ...wait, wait, wait, wait, don't, don't stop right now by, by hesitating...

14 A I'm cooperating with you...

15 Q You are.

16 A ...I, I what'n...

17 Q You're doing, you're doing a wonderful job that's why I don't understand why now
18 you're stopping.

19 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

20 Q I tell you what if you're afraid to say it point it to me. cause it's a lot different if
21 you point it out than actually saying it cause then you're not snitching so to speak
22 cause I know that's, I know that's your big worry.

23 A Man all I know is I was in the front so ...

24 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

25 Q But you know who's in the back.

1 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

2 Q But it's like we said, you know based on this, see I wish we would a had this
3 earlier and we could have gone down. Cause you know the different section
4 leaders and everything else okay. And these are the people that are on "The
5 Bus" so ...

6
7 A And I expressed that to you earlier. You got all these people in "The Bus", you
8 ask they who, you know what I'm saying. Somebody told you my name and that,
9 and that's fine with me but I ...

10 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

11 Q CJ as far as...

12
13 A ...don't feel...

14 Qyou, you gotta understand we're, we're coming here from Orlando, we've got
15 a minimal amount of time to talk to the people we need to talk to, we don't need
16 to be wasting our time (inaudible) on "The Bus". And we're looking for the people
17 that, that are in charge. People that can tell us who everybody is.

18 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

19
20 These are the people, whoever it is that's in the back of "The Bus", whose going
21 to know, who has rank and everything else.

22 (UNKNOWN SPEAKER)

23
24 Q So, so it's safe to say that the section leader is at the back of "The Bus" right.

25 A I don't even think he was there. I don't know, I don't recall...

1 Q But I'm saying the section leader, assistant section leader rank sergeants, they
2 at the back of "The Bus" right?

3 A Yeah I ...

4
5 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

6 Q Okay who are those, who are the assistant le, all those people who are they, just,
7 as an answer to that question who is the...

8 A (Inaudible)

9
10 Q Okay those 3 people?

11 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

12
13 Q Wait which one?

14 A (No audible response)

15 Q Darryl and Lasherri.

16
17 A No the one after.

18 Q Karien Cox.

19 A (No audible response)

20
21 Q And Darryl Seneal.

22 A That's the section leader and the assistant, that, they would know more than I
23 would.
24
25

1 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

2 Q Okay the question is this, those people who were at the back of "The Bus" when
3 there correct?

4
5 A I don't go (inaudible)

6 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

7
8 Q But you saw them walk on to that...

9 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

10 Q You saw them walk on...

11
12 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

13 Q ...you saw them walk on, you know who's allowed to...

14
15 A Wh, wh, what, here, when we got on "The Bus" for The Classic to go back to the
16 hotel, the, everybody got on "The Bus". I didn't see those two get off "The Bus"...

17 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

18 Q Okay.

19
20 A ...so it's safe to say they were back there.

21 Q Okay that's fair enough.

22
23 A You know so I don't, I don't...

24 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

25 Q No, no, I...

1 A ...wanna give you more than I don't know you know what I'm saying.

2 Q That, that's specific enough for me that's, that's what I understood and I said
3 that's what I wanted to get, you didn't see them leave, as far as you're concerned
4 they were back there.

5
6 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

7 Q Right when you were on "The Bus" with it rolled out of the Citrus Bowl these two
8 were in the back of "The Bus"?

9
10 A (No audible response)

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q Okay that, I didn't saw it he walked right in front of you, you said yes?

13
14 A (No audible response)

15 Q Okay. Um now did you cover this, as far as, what then, we didn't get to that part
16 that you were saying, what is it that they're doing to keep him from getting to the
17 back, Robert getting to the back?

18
19 A Probably just like holding his hands or like holding a arm or something. Not like
20 holding it real tight...

21 Q Well what about...

22 A ...it's...

23
24 Q ...what about slapping him with something, a belt or anything else like that?

25 A That, that part I don't see, that you really don't see. You can't see it. It's...

1 Q Okay.

2 A ...it's dark.

3
4 Q You could certainly hear it.

5 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

6
7 Q Well when you went through were you getting popped?

8 A I didn't, I didn't feel it. If, if, if you, if you went, if you went, if you went, if you
9 really went through this you really don't, you really don't know nothing. It's, it's,
10 you trying to get there as fast as you can.

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12
13 Q I got you.

14 A You really don't know. And I really don't know.

15
16 Q But you, but you, if you would look up quick right beforehand you know to dodge
17 either a fist or a belt or a stick or...

18 A I never, I never look up, all I seen was people trying to hold me back.

19 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

20
21 Q Okay.

22 A Because people, you a go through different, like you know what I'm saying some
23 people go through this in, in my case it's different for me cause I tricked
24 everybody.

25 Q How did you trick them?

1 A Uh I said, I forgot what I said, I say "My pants coming down", and they stopped.

2 Q (Laughter)

3
4 A And I got up and I ran so it's different you know what I'm saying.

5 Q Got it.

6
7 A People have different, I heard of stories when people crawled under the seats
8 and you know it's a lot of people you don't know who hit, you touch the back of
9 "The Bus", there is it, you know what I'm saying.

10 Q Right, okay.

11 A So...

12
13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14 Q Well let, let, let's get down to Robert's, when Robert's doing it.

15
16 A He pass me and he gone.

17 Q Okay so...

18 A And, and he was strong so he was, he was there.

19
20 Q Right.

21 A You know what I'm saying. As, as, as far as I know you know what I'm saying, by
22 time I got ready to get off "The "Bus" cause I had to get back in the hotel and find,
23 well actually I went up to the uh, the people to get my key cause I didn't have my
24 key.

25 Q Right.

1 A He was there, like you know I could turn around and see where everybody was
2 going to that, he was practically there.

3 Q Practically there where?

4
5 A Like almost to the back.

6 (Music tone)

7
8 Q Almost to the back.

9 A Right you know what I'm saying and...

10 Q Was, were their, if somebody said that you were at the back of "The Bus" holding
11 him then maybe the confused you with somebody else, who would that other
12 person have been? When you looked back there and saw him almost to the back
13 of "The Bus" who was holding on to him at that point?

14
15 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

16 Q Does anyone have a beard like you?

17
18 A Man it's a couple of people got a beard like me.

19 Q Okay well who, well who did you see holding him right before you got off "The
20 Bus"?

21 A Man I didn't see nobody holding him but I just see him...

22
23 Q Well keeping him back the most.

24 **(UNKNOWN SPEAKER)**

25 Q Who on that list that you identified as a leader?

1 A (No audible response)

2 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

3
4 Q Yeah who on this list has a beard like you (laughter)?

5 A (Inaudible)

6 (DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)

7
8 Q Darryl?

9 A Yeah.

10 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

11
12 Q So was Darryl holding him?

13 A I...

14
15 Q When you left, when you last left and you looked out, you just said this, you
16 looked down there, he's almost to the wall to touch it, whose got hands on him or
17 the closest to him at that point?

18 A Now I don't know if he's back there to the wall exactly...

19
20 Q But wherever.

21 A ...I just know, yeah, I just know...

22 Q Okay...

23
24 A ...where he's, you know what I'm saying...

25 Q Okay.

1 A ...you could tell where people at and it's, they in the back.

2 Q Okay so picture in your mind, play the video back and tell me what's that picture
3 say? What did you see, who was standing next to Robert either holding on to
4 him...

5
6 A You can't...

7 (Phone ringing)

8 A ... if you take me to a bus right now and I turn out all the lights with like 30, 30 or
9 so people in it you don't know whose who. You know...

10
11 Q Okay so "The Bus"...

12 A ...you can't see.

13
14 Q ...oh maybe I misunderstood, I thought "The Bus" was on, the AC was running...

15 A Oh no.

16 Q Oh no it's not.

17
18 A Oh no.

19 Q Okay, okay.

20
21 (Laughter)

22 A Oh no. The lights are off completely. If you turn off these lights right now...

23 (Background talking)

24
25 A ... that's what it looks like.

1 Q Okay.

2 A Pitch black.

3 Q And that, it's that your suppose to do it that way.

4
5 **(UNKNOWN SPEAKER)**

6 Q (Inaudible)

7
8 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

9 Q That's the way...

10 A I guess.

11 Q Okay.

12
13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q Okay real quick and then I'm a let him take you on home. Uh how long, from the
15 time Robert started to the time he ended you think he was going?

16 A No longer than 3 minutes.

17 Q Three minutes.

18 A No longer.

19 Q Okay. About the same for each, all 3 of them?

20 A About the same for everybody, whoever go.

21
22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Well just, we're just wondering...

1 A Oh...

2 Q ...spec, specific that night.

3

4 A Oh yeah. Yeah probably no longer than 3 minutes.

5 Q Okay. And prior to him was, was uh Robert feeling okay?

6

7 A (No audible response)

8 Q Did he say anything to you?

9

10 A He nev, he never, he never rode our bus.

11 Q No pri, at the beginning of the, when, when you were standing before he went

12 down the isle.

13 A Oh yeah, yeah I, I don't know.

14

15 Q He didn't say anything to you?

16 A Uh uh (Negative)

17 Q Did he look distraught or anything else like that?

18

19 A Un huh (Affirmative)

20 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

21

22 Q Breathing heavy.

23 A Un huh (Affirmative)

24 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

25

Q What did he, was he sick at all in front of you? Did he get sick ...

1 A I guess it's, I, I try to tell you about how I went so you can try to get...

2 Q Okay.

3
4 A ...a feeling.

5 Q Please.

6 A It's anxious feeling, you ever got on a ride...

7
8 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

9 A ...you know what I'm saying and was like oh I don't know if I'm wanna go on that
10 ride.

11
12 Q Right.

13 A You know what I'm saying, he was like ah hell nah.

14 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

15
16 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

17 Q Butterflies in your stomach.

18 A You know butterflies, you know so that's how I felt.

19
20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21 Q Okay.

22
23 A So I felt, you know what I'm saying, he probably felt the same way you know
24 what I'm saying, it's just okay I'm ready to get to this thing you know what I'm
25 saying and...

1 Q Did he say, well did he say that to you?

2 A Nah he didn't say nothing.

3 Q Okay.

4
5 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

6 Q But there's the expectation like you said knowing that you're not walking down
7 and people are gonna be hitting you with...

8 A But at, at, at, at...

9 Q ...soft feathers and stuff....

10 A ... but no...

11 Q ...you know that...

12 A ... and, and that's why I try to express for you, you know everybody, like he said
13 this, this, this been going on since the 60, you know what I'm saying. At the end
14 of the day we all love each other you know what I'm saying so...

15
16
17 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

18 Q Oh yeah, yeah I got you.

19 A ...we wanna see, you can say you wanna see somebody do it if they gon' do it
20 you know what I'm saying, it's something that you don't have to do. If you go to
21 that bus that's saying that you wanted to do it.

22 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

1 A It's not nobody saying oh yeah you gon' come on this, especially with it being a
2 drum major and a strong mind, it ain't nobody making you come. If you came to
3 that bus they mean you made up in your mind that that's what you wanted to do.

4 Q And, and when did you do yours?

5
6 A Somewhere around probably South Carolina.

7 Q And who did yours?

8 A Everybody that was on that bus (laughter)

9
10 Q The same list (laughter).

11 A That same list.

12
13 Q And it, it was on "Bus C"?

14 A And that was this year, yeah.

15
16 Q Okay

17 A And that's why I said whoever told you that I was in the back is a lie because how
18 this being run, it goes from the beginning, whenever you cross until the back.

19 Q So the most senior people are in the back?

20
21 A The most senior people in the back.

22 Q Okay. Well now you've set me straight, thank you.

23
24 A You welcome.

25 Q Okay if we need to, if we need to is it okay if we got, get back in touch with you
again?

1 A (No audible response)

2 Q And we got his cell number?

3
4 (Inaudible)

5 Q Okay great. Okay thank you.

6
7 A I wanna let y'all (inaudible)

8 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

9 Q (Inaudible)

10
11 Q What's that?

12 A I love that man like a brother man.

13
14 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

15 Q Okay.

16 A You know what I'm saying. If he, if, if...

17
18 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

19 Q Let me ask you something.

20 A ...if he, if he, if he did it that, he wanted to go on that bus.

21
22 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

23 Q Okay.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q I know these are gonna be (inaudible) but I bet you you can handle it.

3
4 A I can handle it.

5 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

6
7 Q Who are the people in that, who are the people in that picture there?

8 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

9 Q Whose that right there with the shirt off?

10
11 A Man I can't even see who that is.

12 Q (Laughter). I can put it on that big old camera.

13
14 A Nah I'm, I'm being dead serious I, I, I don't know ...

15 Q (Inaudible)...

16
17 A ...who that is for real.

18 Q Okay. That's too dark. Big man, you know who big man is?

19 A (No audible response)

20 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

21
22 Q Whose the dude all in white?

23
24 A There go your list.

25 (Background talking)

1 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

2 Q Everybody here came off that bus?

3 A Yeah. You can look at your list, dang, that look like, it look like a girl.

4 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

5 A It look like Lissette. It look like her.

6 Q Un huh (Affirmative). And don't this look like uh the other guy that went through?

7 A (No audible response)

8 Q Don't they wear no shirt when they go through?

9 A He ain't got no shirt on?

10 Q I don't know.

11 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

12 Q What do they do for girls when they don't, do they have to...

13 A Nah they, I don't think, nah.

14 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

15 Q (Laughter)

16 A They wear they, they wear they stuff.

17 (Background talking)

18 **(UNKNOWN SPEAKER)**

19 Q That's a good question, I didn't think about that.

20 A Nah, nah it ain't, I ain't (inaudible).

21 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

22 Q Do they, they, they wear a shirt though right?

23 A Yeah.

1 Q Okay. The girls. Well they can wear sports bra I guess.

2
3 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

4 Q None of them?

5 A Now, now you see...

6 Q (Inaudible)...

7 A ...now I, now you know I see...

8 Q It's tough, it's tough...

9 A ...I can't see that. I really can't.

10 Q Well you have to really look at they figure and know who was there on "The Bus"
11 and...

12 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

13 Q Well look, look, with the clothing that you're seeing there, whose on "The Bus"
14 with that clothing?

15 A I, I don't, we all, we just came from a performance you know what I'm saying.

16
17 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

18 Q (Inaudible)

19 A We, ev, ev, everybody wearing the same thing.

20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21
22 Q So everybody was in uniform still on "The Bus"?

23 A Most people you know what I'm saying. If they had changing clothes on "The
24 Bus" maybe they, I guess they changed.

1 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

2 Q Okay. Alright just a chance, I was just checking.

3 A Yeah I don't even.

4 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

5 Q Now do you swear everything you told these new gentlemen...

6 A Yeah.

7 Q ...that everything is true.

8 A Uh true, you know sir I, I, I really, I'm, I'm trying my best.

9 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

10 Q No I, I, I appreciate it.

12 A I'm trying my best.

13 Q But I mean when he asked you that and you swear to it is that ...

15 A Yes.

16 Q ...we take that as a, that you were standing by it. there's no reason to, to doubt
17 what you're saying.

19 A See...

20 Q And you would say the same thing again if I asked you.

21 A To, to, to a certain extent you know what I'm saying.

23 Q What do you mean certain extent?

24 A To a certain extent. Once he pass me...

25 Q Oh no I meant...

1 A Oh yeah.

2 Q ...as far as the statement

3

4 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

5 Q I mean everything, everything you said to us.

6 A Oh yeah everything, oh yeah everything is the truth.

7 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

8

9 Q Okay.

10 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

11 Q Okay.

12

13 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

14

15 Q And that you are saying a certain extent what?

16 A Oh...

17

18 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

19

20 Q Like...

21 A ...like what I seen...

22 Q ...as far as he knew.

23 A ...it's like far as I knew...

24 Q As far as he knew. He's told the truth as far as you know it.

25 A Right.

26 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

27 Q Okay you can only assume...

1 A Nah I can't, I can't...

2 Q ...(inaudible).

3

4 A ...I can't just make it up out my head.

5 Q No I don't want you to.

6

7 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

8 Q No we don't want you to.

9 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

10 Q You did very well, thank you sir.

11

12 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

13 Q Alright.

14 **(DETECTIVE VOYLES)**

15

16 Q Alright man thanks.

17 **(DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ)**

18 Q Thanks buddy.

19 A (Inaudible) cause like I said I thought I was finna go home 30 minutes ago.

20 **(DETECTIVE CHIOTA)**

21

22 Q Well we're gonna let you go.

23 A (Inaudible), my wife gonna be upset now.

24

25

1 (DETECTIVE VOYLES)

2 Q Well you, you got my card right there, she can give us a call. It's not like you
3 were stepping out on her.
4

5 (Laughter)

6 (DETECTIVE CHIOTA)

7
8 Q It's about 6:20 now so uh just tell her, if you need dude you can, uh Detective
9 Phelan will vouch for you, say you were helping out with out investigation so.

10 A Thank you sir.

11 Q Alright man thank you. Nice talking with you.
12
13
14

15 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

16 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

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20 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF SHAWN JOHNSON**

2 **DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-104834**

4
5 **Today is Tuesday, December 6, 2012. The time is 1612 hours. I'm Detective David**
6 **A. Phelan Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. Also**
7 **present is Detective Segreaves, Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal**
8 **Investigation Division. Present for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is:**

9
10 **(S.A. Duncan)**

11 Q Special Agent Jeff Duncan.

12 **(Detective Phelan)**

13 Q And present from the FAMU campus police.

14 **(Investigator Cotton)**

15 Q Investigator Cotton.

16 **(Detective Phelan)**

17 Q And we're all here at, what's the building?

18 **(Investigator Cotton)**

19 Q Foster Tanner.

20 **(Detective Phelan)**

21 Q Foster Tanner Building. Uh, in reference to an investigation into the death of
22 Robert Champion. We're here speaking with:

23 A Shawn Johnson.

24 Q Mr. Johnson, what's your date of birth?

25 A July 26, 1993.

1 Q And you're aware you're being recorded a this time?

2 A Yes, I am.

3 Q Okay. And uh, you understand that you are under no obligation to give a

4 statement, uh, we're just trying to get information into what's the goings on and

5 happenings surrounding the uh, Robert Champion's death.

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay, uh, your name was referred to us as someone who may possibly have

8 information as to what occurred or what happened occurring uh, on a bus. I take

9 it that was involved in this incident. In your own words, just tell us what you know

10 about the incident.

11 A Um, as far as I know, he was trying to cross Bus C and he had to walk from the

12 front to the back of the bus getting beat in the process of walking from the front to

13 the back of the bus. And um, and before you get on the bus, I guess, you have

14 to get hit first before you get on the bus and then you have to cross the bus.

15 Q Okay, have you ever, are you, you're in the band?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Oh, have you ever went through the process of Bus C?

18 A Um um. That's usually only for percussion players and drum majors. Just

19 nobody else in the band does it, unless you want to. That's just a dumb process

20 to me.

21 Q Okay. So everything you know about it is from someone telling you?

22 A Um hum.

23 Q And uh, you have no personal knowledge of the night that Robert went through.

24 A Not at all. All we got is the um, we had a memorial service, well, we didn't have a

25 service that night. It was more like a praying on the second floor of our hotel.

1 Um, about him passing. We found out at the hotel. We all got text messages.
2 We were all out at the movies and eating and things and we just got text
3 messaged.

4 Q Have a, you since, I, I take it you spoke with uh, the director here at the school
5 or you spoke with someone here at the school about what, what you had heard
6 occurs on Bus C.

7 A Um hum.

8 Q And who was that that you spoke with?

9 A Uh, I was with uh, I was with uh, Dr. Emmons and his staff.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I can't recall their names, but.

12 Q That's okay. And uh, did you tell them basically what you told us here then?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay, since that, uh, time you spoke with them, have you had any threats or
15 anything against your life or health?

16 A No, nobody has said anything to me. It was, I've gotten a lot of encouragement
17 on things, that if you get questioned just tell what you know and that's all I know
18 about the percussion section. Uh, we don't find, we don't know too much about
19 other sections except but word of mouth and that's all we can go by.

20 Q Okay.

21 A 'Cause we don't go through the process.

22 Q Okay, do you know Marcus Fabray?

23 A Yes, that's my friend from high school.

24 Q Okay, a friend from high school? Uh, do you know anything about him being
25 threatened?

1 A Uh, yes. Um, it, it kind of amazes me how people in a band, they're mad at the
2 people that, that are telling on things that are happening in the band and they're
3 not mad about his death. It's like they're, it's, it's, non-existent, it never
4 happened. It's like they're only caring about the people that are telling on the
5 people that are, that are telling on the people that are doing things.

6 Q Right. Okay, so he received threats after he came forward with information
7 pertaining to the death of Robert Champion?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And what was happening on Bus C?

10 A Um hum.

11 Q Okay.

12 **(S.A. Duncan)**

13 Q Do you have any specific knowledge of anybody who was in that bus at that time
14 Mr. Champion's passing?

15 A On the bus? Um, I don't know any specific people. I know the person. I know
16 the person that made a phone call.

17 Q Who's that?

18 A This, I don't know his actual name. All we know is his nickname, 'cause we don't
19 like, that's what we go by but his nickname is Snacks.

20 Q Snacks?

21 A Yes.

22 Q He's the one that made the phone call?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And how do you know that?

25 A Because we know his voice. That was nobody else voice.

1 Q Plus you heard it on the TV and knew that's who it is?

2 A Um hum. Know exactly who it was. And the thing was behind that is, we, we
3 saw him the other day and we're like the person that, that made the phone call is
4 still walking around. We still see him. And you're mad at the people trying to
5 help the, the band. I, I don't get it. That's what amazed us. And we're like why
6 are you mad at us. You should be mad at the people that had something to do
7 with, or knew what was going on during the process. He knows, I'm sure he
8 does. 'Cause he made the phone call.

9 **(Detective Phelan)**

10 Q How long have you known Snacks?

11 A This is my, this is my freshman year. This is my first year in the band.

12 Q Have you seen him, you know him for one month?

13 A Um, yes, well.

14 Q Have you seen him over 5 or 6 times?

15 A Yeah, band practice.

16 Q If you saw him again, would you be able to recognize him (inaudible).

17 A Yes.

18 Q So if we showed you several photographs, you oughta be able to pick him out.

19 A Yeah. None of them. None of them. None of them. None of them. None of
20 them. Him.

21 **(S.A. Duncan)**

22 Q Which one?

23 A This one.

24 Q With the glasses?

25 **(Detective Phelan)**

1 Q Just for the record.

2 **(S.A. Duncan)**

3 Q For the record, an individual picked out an individual by the name of Henry
4 Nesbitt. N E S B I T T. Nickname Snacks. And you've know Snacks or Mr.
5 Nesbitt for couple months while you been here at the school.

6 A I don't know him personally, but I mean, I see him on the band field.

7 Q On the band field?

8 A Yeah, we don't, we don't, well we don't really talk. As a freshman, I'm not really
9 allowed to talk like that, so. I mean we just see people and we recognize their
10 faces. We might get a name every now and then but I mean, I don't know him
11 personally.

12 Q What section are you in?

13 A Um, euphonium.

14 Q What?

15 A Euphonium sector.

16 Q Oh, and what's, where is uh, Snacks at and what does he do?

17 A He in percussion.

18 Q He's in percussion? And you never had any conversation with him personal?

19 A No. I never talk to him like that. I don't like them because they do so much.

20 Q That being the percussion section?

21 A Yeah, they just always wild. I mean, that's every band. Even in high school. My
22 percussion section was crazy. I mean, it's.

23 **(Detective Phelan)**

24

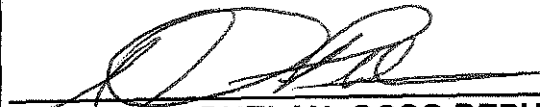
25

1 Q Okay, that should do it, uh, the time is now 4:20 and we'll conclude this interview.
2 Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear everything you said in this
3 statement is true and correct?

4 A I do.
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19 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

20 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

21 
22 _____
23 DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
24
25

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF BRYAN JONES**

2 **DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-104834**

4
5 **Today is Tuesday, December 6, 2010. The time is, 2011. The time is now um,**
6 **6:30, 5:31, 1731 hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan, Orange County Sheriff's**
7 **Office Criminal Investigation Division. Also present is, is Corporal Mike**
8 **Segreaves and representing the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is:**

9
10 **(S.A. Duncan)**

11 Q Special Agent Jeffrey Duncan.

12 **(Detective Phelan)**

13 Q And we're at uh, ...

14 **(S.A. Duncan)**

15 Q Foster Tanner.

16 **(Detective Phelan)**

17 Q Foster Tanner Hall, Room 211, speaking with?

18 A Bryan Jones.

19 Q Bryan Jones. In reference to the death of Eddie, uh, Champion. (Phone ringing)

20 **(S.A. Duncan)**

21 Q Listen, Jones, you give me a little bit of back, are you in the band?

22 A Yes sir.

23 Q And are you familiar with the incident or were you present during the incident
24 when Mr. Champion passed?

25 A Yes I am familiar with it.

1 Q Okay, did you ride Bus C from Tallahassee to the Citrus Bowl location or to
2 Orlando on the 18th?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay, and were you assigned to the bus totally on the day of the 18th, that night
5 as well as Saturday the 19th?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Who, start with um, Friday evening, the 18th. When you guys arrived or
8 when the band arrived in Bus C in the Orlando area. What did you, what, what
9 was your agenda? What did you guys, what were you to do?

10 A On Friday?

11 Q Um hum.

12 A Uh, Friday we got there. We changed and we uh, went to Amway Center for the
13 (inaudible).

14 Q Okay. And how long were you at Amway Center?

15 A Um, a few hours.

16 Q And once you left the Amway Center, where did you end up going?

17 A We went back to the hotel.

18 Q Which is the Rosen. Are you, are you familiar with a um, the phrases,
19 (inaudible).

20 **(Detective Phelan)**

21 A Hot seat.

22 **(S.A. Duncan)**

23 Q Hot seat?

24 A (Inaudible)

25 Q Have you ever observed any of those?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay.

3 **(Detective Phelan)**

4 Q During your uh, the ride back from the Rosen Center, uh, were you aware of any

5 uh, activities on the back of the, you were on Bus C that night, right?

6 A Yes sir.

7 Q Uh, are any activities being taken place on Bus C?

8 A No, just...

9 Q Uh, mainly hot seat.

10 A Not that I know of.

11 Q Okay. Uh, after you got back to the uh, uh, Rosen Center, what, what had

12 occurred?

13 A Uh, we got back and went to the room, showered, changed.

14 Q Okay, and you say we. Who are you referring to?

15 A Everybody.

16 Q Um, you went back with your roommates. Who were you roommates with?

17 A Um, Walter Francis and Ryan Dean.

18 Q So each one of them when we talk to them gonna say you went back to the room

19 with them?

20 A Uh, I didn't go back with them.

21 Q So, where did you go when you left, when, when the bus arrived back from the

22 uh, arrived back there.

23 A I went back to the room and showered and changed.

24 Q Okay, you went by yourself. Were they there or what?

25 A Uh, when I got there, I was the first one back.

1 Q Yeah, and when they got there, you were still there?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay, did you have an occasion to go back to the bus that night?

4 A No sir. I went, um, back outside to, to smoke.

5 Q And um, have you um, have you talked to anybody we talked to about this. Have

6 anybody told you that they talked to the police about this?

7 A I, I heard you'all call people out of class.

8 Q We talked to quite a few people for some reason your name has came up as

9 being on the bus at the time of these incidents happened. So we need you to

10 explain why would your name come up as being involved in this incident?

11 A Um, was I, Lissette Sanchez, she, she did it. I was on there when she did it.

12 Q Um.

13 A And um...

14 Q That's Friday night? Or Saturday night?

15 A That was Saturday.

16 Q Okay, okay, so we haven't got to Saturday yet, but you weren't there Friday night.

17 A No sir.

18 Q Okay, so now let's move to Saturday. Did you rode Bus C to the game?

19 A Yes sir.

20 Q And did you ride Bus C home from the game?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And once you uh, got back from the game, did you go. Did you remain on the

23 bus or did you go up to your room?

24 A I went up to my room.

25 Q And at some point did you return back to the bus?

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q Okay, and when you returned back to the bus. Has Lissette already gone
3 through the process, or was she currently about to go through the process.

4 A Oh, I believe she was about to go through.

5 Q Okay. And you uh, were you on the, did you get on the bus or were you just,
6 where were you at?

7 A Um, I got on to get my lighter and got off and I went back out to smoke.

8 Q Okay, so you went on the bus. You got your lighter and you came back off.

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q So when, when you went on you saw Lissette getting ready to go through.

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q Okay. I, I know it seems like it's a scary situation. You just need to be truthful,
13 okay?

14 A Yes sir.

15 Q People now already told us things and we're just gonna, you know. You just
16 need to confirm what happened and tell us the truth. If you lie, then, of course
17 there's problems. There's consequences. Uh, so you go on the bus. Lissette's
18 getting ready to go through. Do you see anyone on the bus that you know?
19 Besides Lissette?

20 A I remember Ryan Dean.

21 Q You know him.

22 A Uh, April, um, and (Inaudible) and Jessie.

23 Q You want to...

24 A That's all I recall.

25 Q You know who the bus president is referred to as on the bus?

1 A Uh, no I don't.

2 Q When did you go through? When did you cross over? Or have you crossed

3 over?

4 A I haven't crossed.

5 Q Have you started the process?

6 A (Inaudible)

7 Q Okay, how many times have you been through the uh, hot seat portion of it.

8 A I didn't even...

9 Q You haven't even started the hot seat yet?

10 A (Inaudible)

11 Q Okay. If you were to I guess by getting started which means that I guess they

12 would come and tell you when you would do the rest. I'm trying to understand

13 how the process would work, as far as you would understand. How do you think

14 it would, it works for you?

15 A As far as I understand, like they wouldn't, I figure you wouldn't be told. You just,

16 'cause, like when people gone through and I like know they've gone through, it's

17 like whoa, when did you do it?

18 Q So, I'm a ask you again. When you went on the bus, you went on the bus, what

19 reason?

20 A Um, to look for my lighter.

21 Q And you did not get involved in any of the activities?

22 A No sir.

23 Q Were, did you see uh, Keon?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And where did you see Keon at?

1 A I saw him walking to the bus.

2 Q Okay, did you see Robert anywhere?

3 A He was with Keon.

4 Q Him and Keon were together? Who's your section leader?

5 A Carrie Ann Cox.

6 Q Did you see him?

7 A Um, no.

8 Q And this was your freshman year?

9 A This was my second.

10 Q This is your second year. So this is your second year of riding Bus C?

11 A No, sir, first year.

12 Q Okay. So Friday night you didn't see anything, didn't hear anything. And you've

13 never been aware of any uh, hazing type activity. Has anybody explained to you

14 what the hot seat is or how it works?

15 A I've, I've heard.

16 Q Where were you sitting on the bus Friday night when you, when you were coming

17 back from the uh, battleground.

18 A Um like the 3rd or 4th seat back.

19 Q I mean, I'm, you know, we're, we're trying to learn here. Uh, so do most of the

20 uh, freshman and first, second year people sit toward the front and the other

21 people sit, the older people sit toward the rear. How do that work?

22 A Um, pretty much they sit by like who you know, like yeah, pretty much

23 (inaudible)...it's like but, I guess like the seniority of more years you have in the

24 band, like people will sit at the back (inaudible).

25 (S.A. Duncan)

1 Q What are you gonna do? What, let me ask you a question. When um, your, your
2 roommate was Ryan Dean, also, right?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q He was on the bus? Has he gone through the process himself or is he? Do you
5 know or have you talked to him about it?

6 A I think he has.

7 Q Was he on the bus that night when they, when this occurred? When these
8 incidents occurred?

9 A I think so, yeah.

10 Q He was? Was he on it when you went and get, got your lighter off the bus?
11 When he came back later that night, did he tell you what happened on the bus?
12 No? Was there any conversation about it at all?

13 A Um, he talked about he was saying he like broke his glasses or lost them or
14 something.

15 Q Did he say how he broke them? Did he say he lost them on the bus or where did
16 he say he lost them?

17 A He, uh, lost them on the bus.

18 **(Detective Phelan)**

19 Q Do you know Lasharrie Conner?

20 A Conner?

21 Q Was she on the bus?

22 A Yeah, Lasharrie, I saw her when I was um, when I was leaving.

23 Q On the bus or coming toward the bus.

24 A She was coming towards.

25 Q And again, you would have been leaving before they finished with Lissette?

1 A I, I think she actually started when I was getting off.

2 Q Lissette. Okay. You know the drum majors if you saw them? You know them

3 pretty well. Besides Keon and Robert, did you see any of the rest of them that

4 night, while you were near, at or near the bus?

5 A Saw them walking, walking toward it.

6 Q Who, who did you say they was walking towards?

7 A Um, Keon, Robert. Think I saw Shawn.

8 Q Do you know K, C.J.?

9 A Yes.

10 Q See or hear him there?

11 A See or hear him?

12 Q See or hear him on the bus?

13 A No sir.

14 Q Do you know Benjamin McNamee?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q See or hear him on the bus?

17 A I think he rode it back. Believe he rode, believe he rode it.

18 Q When we ask you like did you see him on the bus, I'm, we're asking about during

19 the time that you went back on the bus and this incident, this hazing stuff.

20 A Uh, no sir.

21 Q Okay. (Inaudible)

22 **(S.A. Duncan)**

23 Q (Inaudible)...Was there anybody on the bus that you didn't recognize? That was

24 maybe alumni or somebody wasn't actually in the band at the time? Is everybody

25 that rides the bus in the band and an active student at the campus?

1 A Repeat that?

2 Q Everybody that was on that bus, Bus C, that you know, are they all active

3 students here at the campus?

4 A Yes.

5 **(Detective Phelan)**

6 Q Dante Martin. Know him?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Was he, was he there? Did you hear his voice? See him?

9 A No.

10 Q Alright Bryan, we appreciate it. Uh, do you swear that everything you said in this

11 recording is true?

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q Okay. The time is now.

14 **(S.A. Duncan)**

15 Q 17:50.

16 **(Detective Phelan)**

17 Q 1750 hours and that will conclude this interview.

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THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.



DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JOSH LATIMER**
2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**
3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**
4
5

6 **Okay today's date is Sunday, November the 20th, 2011; the time is now uh 117**
7 **hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal**
8 **Investigation Division. I'm currently out at Dr. Phillips Hospital in reference to**
9 **Orange County case number 101688, it a be a death investigation and we're here**
10 **speaking with uh state your first and last name for me.**
11
12

13 A Josh Latimer.

14 Q Mr. Latimer uh you are employed by who?

15 A I'm sorry?

16 Q You are employed by who?

17 A The Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

18 Q Columbia County, okay SO. And you, I guess drive uh...

19 A This is a part time job...

20 Q (Inaudible)

21 A ..(inaudible)

22 Q Job. And who's that with?

23 A Uh...

24 Q The company...

25 A Fabulous Motor Coach.

1 Q Fabulous M O T O R C O A C H, Motor Coach. Okay and today you uh were
2 driving for FAMU band?

3 (Background talking)

4 A That's correct.

5 Q Okay and...

6 A Driving the uh the director and the uh the band majors or the...

7 Q Drum majors.

8 A Drum majors.

9 Q Okay and you took them to the game and then brought them back from the
10 game?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay. And when you brought them back from the game where did you drop
13 them off at?

14 A The uh, the side entrance of the ho, the side back entrance of the hotel.

15 Q And the young man that uh got later determined to be deceased uh lets see,
16 Robert Champion, did, was he in the uh limo when y'all came back?

17 A They all were in the same (inaudible), told he was in the limousine, I...

18 Q Okay you don't know him one from the other.

19 A ...I couldn't place him because I just met them all today and I saw them for a very
20 short time.

21 Q Okay.

22 A But I was told he was one of the uh drum majors that was in the limousine.

23 Q Okay and uh when you dropped them off uh where did you go then?

24 A I uh went to the back, made contact with my supervisor and we made
25 arrangements, we were going to uh, I, and then I re-parked the limousine on the

1 side of the building to pick up the director, his wife and child to take them to Joe's
2 Crab Shack.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And also in the mist of all that there was arrangements made to actually after
5 dropping the director off at Joe's Crab Shack I was gonna pick up the drum major
6 or the...

7 Q The drum majors.

8 A ...drum majors, I was gonna pick them up and take them out to dinner also. And
9 he, I guess he was one of the ones that was gonna go out.

10 Q And you never got to do that?

11 A No sir.

12 Q Okay. So they never left, far as you know they never left the property...

13 A Right.

14 Q Cause they were waiting for you to take them and then come back and take
15 them.

16 A Right.

17 Q Did you go back to the uh, the scene back there where...

18 A Like when the patrol car came around the corner...

19 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

20 A ...I saw it go towards the coaches, I knew there were drivers back there because
21 they had gone to dinner...

22 Q Uh huh (Affirmative)

23 A ...and me and the, the, the director went back there to see what's going on...

24 Q Okay.

25 A ...and that's when we saw the uh the deceased...

1 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

2 A ...I guess uh laying in the isle of the, the coach.

3 Q Okay. And uh do you have anything else (inaudible)?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. Were they, were they drinking or anything going or coming?

6 A No, no, uh all, when they got out of the coach they had bottled water.

7 Q Bottled water.

8 A (Inaudible) throwing in the garbage can. Nobody was drinking any alcohol
9 (inaudible) the coach or in, in, excuse me, in the limousine.

10 Q And did, is this the first time you've driven for them?

11 A Yes sir.

12 Q Okay. From my understanding this was a special since it was the last game...

13 A It was a last minute thing they did, just called and had this scheduled the last
14 minute.

15 Q Alright you swear everything you said is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
16 the truth?

17 A I do.

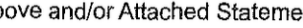
18 Q Okay that will conclude this interview.

19
20
21 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

22 Signed this 13 day of March, 2012.

23
24 
25 **DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

Please fill out in full detail

Sworn To and Subscribed Before Me This		I Swear/Affirm the Above and/or Attached Statements are Correct and True.	
19 day of NOVEMBER, 20 11		Signature: 	
Deputy Sheriff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notary Public <input type="checkbox"/>		Arrest made? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miranda warning read? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Type of ID: _____		Page 1 of 1	



Orange County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Contamination Sheet

Any and all persons entering a crime scene (including the first deputy on the scene) are **required** to print their name and **state the reason they entered the scene** in the spaces listed below. This is to aid in the elimination of fingerprints and footwear impressions at the scene.

Case #: 11-101834

Location: 9700 INTERNATIONAL DR

1	Name (print): D/S P. SADA 4726	Initials: PS	Date/Time: 11-19-11	14	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason: Homicide				Reason:			
2	Name (print): SGT. MOYSON	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19	15	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason: OC SO				Reason:			
3	Name (print): E.T. TROY PEARSON	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19	16	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
4	Name (print): SGT. S. THOMAS	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19	17	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
5	Name (print): D/S STUBBLACKTON	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19	18	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
6	Name (print): D/S TIM WOOD	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19	19	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
7	Name (print): Alvin Burroughs	Initials: AB	Date/Time: 11/19/11	20	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason: ASU - PD25				Reason:			
8	Name (print): Cpt. Jose M. M. M.	Initials: JMM	Date/Time: 11-19-11	21	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason: Homicide				Reason:			
9	Name (print): DAVE PHELAN	Initials:	Date/Time: 11-19-11	22	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason: Homicide				Reason:			
10	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:	23	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
11	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:	24	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
12	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:	25	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			
13	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:	26	Name (print):	Initials:	Date/Time:
Reason:				Reason:			

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF TONY LEAVELL**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4
5
6 **Okay today is Wednes, Wednesday, December the 7th, 2011; the time is now 1145**
7 **hours. I'm Detective David A. Phelan Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal**
8 **Investigation Division, also present is uh Corporal Segreaves Orange County**
9 **Sheriff's Office. Uh we're currently out at the Florida A&M University uh Police**
10 **Department and we're here speaking with, your first, state your first and last**
11 **name for me.**
12
13

14 **A Uh Tony LeaVelle.**

15 **Q Tony LeaVelle, what's your date of birth Mr. LeaVelle?**

16 **A 6/29 of 54.**

17 **Q And what is your uh address?**

18 **A Uh 3241 Whitney, W H I T N E Y Drive West, Tallahassee Florida 3 2 3 0 9.**

19 **Q 3 2 3 0 9?**

20 **A Yes sir.**

21 **Q Okay, do you have a home phone?**

22 **A Yeah uh well I have cell...**

23 **Q Cell phone.**

24 **A ...8 5 0 9 8 0 0 9 3 8.**

25 **Q And how are you currently employed?**

1 A I'm self employed. Photographer.

2 (CORPORAL SEGREAVES)

3 Q Sir you understand that you're here of your own free will, we're not, you don't...

4 A Right.

5 Q ...have to make a statement or anything like that.

6 A Oh yeah I don't have no problem.

7 Q Okay.

8 (DETECTIVE PHELAN)

9 Q Uh you uh are a self uh employed photographer, are you uh retained by the bank
10 or any edits, any entity of the uh university?

11 A Yeah well I'm with the, I'm actually the bank photographer. I travel uh to the
12 games with the out of town and uh, and um I do ride the "Bus C" and this, uh for
13 the last game I didn't because I had another um job in Orlando on Wednesday so
14 I had to come down early but I did ride the bus to the uh battle of the bands and
15 to the game.

16 Q Okay. Okay so on the trip up from uh Tallahassee to Orlando you, you uh did not
17 ride the bus...

18 A No not...

19 Q ...cause you were already in Orlando.

20 A I was already in Orlando on Wednesday.

21 Q Okay. And uh then on uh Friday evening you rode the bus to the battle of the
22 bands?

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q Did you ride the bus back from the battle of the bands?

25 A Yes to and, to and fro.

1 Q Okay and where are you seated on the bus?

2 A I'm seated uh I'm seated the second seat from the front on the driver's side
3 second seat.

4 Q Okay and uh during the ride back from the uh, from the uh battle of the bands did
5 you hear any commotion in the back of the bus or anything that would indicate
6 uh, uh a fight or anything like that?

7 A No not, not on uh, not on Friday either, or either Saturday, just, you know they
8 always singing or, or, or making loud noises back there but um nothing that like
9 a, a fight or anything, no.

10 Q Have you ever heard of uh the crossing over?

11 A I haven't, you know I hadn't heard of it until uh just what I read and then what,
12 what some people said you know and I didn't know that there was actually, you
13 know all I knew was uh when they came, sometimes when the come on the bus
14 they had to walk backwards...

15 Q Right.

16 A ...cause they were frank, freshmen or whatever.

17 Q Right.

18 A And you know I didn't know, uh I didn't know that any um, anything about a
19 crossing over or The Classic thing until actually all this happen.

20 Q Right. And. Okay and then on Sat, you returned to the uh hotel on Sat, Friday
21 night, did you uh leave the bus immediately?

22 A Uh yeah we're generally the first ones off the bus uh since we up front it'll be uh
23 Earl, me, Earl and, and Dr. James usually the first one off the bus um wherever
24 we go really, we generally the first ones off.

25

1 Q Okay and do y'all normally hang around until the bus is cleared or do y'all just
2 leave...

3 A Nah we don't, I, we try to get to the elevator before everybody get there.
4 (Laughter)

5 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

6 Q Big crowd to be waiting on.

7 A Yeah, yeah so I, and I try to get you know with Dr. James cause you know he,
8 they kinda let us, let us through and I be with him so.

9 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

10 Q Okay and do you ever go back to the bus, not on, not this night but in the past,
11 do you ever go back to the bus through the night to get things off of it or anything
12 like that?

13 A Uh I very, I, I can't say that I've been back to the bus because usually I have my
14 computer and then I have my uh camera bag with me so then...

15 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

16 A ... what I generally do is go and start downloading my pictures, you know and try
17 to get, get all the stuff done from that night and then the um, uh you know and
18 have it ready, well I don't have it, I don't have to have it ready the next day but I
19 generally get that done then cause I know I got something to do the next day.

20 Q (Inaudible). Is this your signature here? Let's see times of the uh fight.

21 A Yes sir, yes, I got that uh after, actually I, that's, I, I scribbled it in there but Miss
22 Jackson actually gave me allocations at the hotel.

23 Q Okay.

24 A So (belched) excuse me, when I say her um I think it was, I think it was that
25 Friday night.

1 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

2 A After, right before we went to the battle. Yeah cause I had just checked in, I get

3 done with my other job, the other contract I have about 4 and then I come on

4 over to the band hotel and check in and...

5 Q Okay so ...

6 A ...then I saw her in the lobby.

7 Q Okay. So you're normally uh a part, get, get a (inaudible) for your...

8 A Yes sir and a room, yes sir.

9 Q And uh are you paid also?

10 A Uh yes, yes sir, I suppose to got, get, actually I got my pay in there now, I was

11 hoping to get paid already but.

12 (Laughter)

13 A Uh I turned my invoice in at the end of the um band season and it was right, it

14 was uh the week of The Classic actually, right before I left. I left on Wednesday

15 so I think I emailed it to her on that Tuesday.

16 Q Okay. Okay so now we're at Saturday. Uh you go to the game...

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q ...uh so you ride, you ride the bus to the game.

19 A Ride the bus to the game and back.

20 Q Okay the, ride the, the game is over, you ride back.

21 A Un huh (Affirmative)

22 Q Uh you immediately the first ones off the bus.

23 A Yes, yes sir.

24 Q And then y'all go back to your room.

25

1 A Go back to the room and uh I actually went back to my room, I was actually,
2 cause I had to stand up.

3 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

4 A You know I was gonna go out but I had to stand up cause I drove my, like I say I
5 drove my truck down but I had to stand up all day and I just got tired. I stayed in
6 the room and I actually saw the fire truck come, where I, where my room is I can
7 see the fire truck coming.

8 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

9 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

10 A So I saw the fire truck coming and I, but I was thinking that um the um AME had
11 their convention there.

12 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

13 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

14 A So I thought you know maybe one of the...

15 Q Older...

16 A ...elderly, older person had a (inaudible) cause then I saw a, a ambulance come
17 so I was like okay well, and I really didn't find out until, I left like that next morning
18 about 7 and Dr. um, well not Dr. but Mr. Sergeant was, was coming out, taking a
19 guest, uh was getting on the shuttle.

20 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

21 A And, and I told him, I said "Well Serge I'll have you picture uh next week" and
22 hen he said "Well it may be null and void", I say "What you mean", he said "One
23 of the drum majors died last night" and I said, and that's when I, that's the first
24 time I, I heard about it...

25 Q And that was the next morning at 7?

1 A It was the next morning about 7 a.m., yeah.

2 Q So you went everywhere with them right?

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q Okay you recall a incident in uh South Carolina where the buses was broken

5 into?

6 A Yes, Un huh (Affirmative), Un huh (Affirmative)

7 Q And the entered an unlocked bus or something?

8 A Yeah uh it was a, suppose to been, I think it was the last bus, uh, uh the

9 freshman bus.

10 Q Okay.

11 A Yeah somebody had, we got back and uh all their stuff was gone so, and I know

12 um sometimes I uh, cause when we travel like that and I have my computer with

13 me I try to make sure, see if the ladies gon' lock the bus...

14 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

15 A ...and if she does a lot of time what I'll do I'll take my stuff up to "Bus A" because

16 the gentleman up there he always locks his bus.

17 Q Okay.

18 A So I always take my computer, cause I, you know I look at it, I be like man, you

19 know she tell me that you can hit this button and you can get in the bus, I'm like

20 well shoot my computer is in there you know so I'm like, I, I always take it up to

21 the uh, to the front bus.

22 Q So "Bus C", she, uh Wendy right?

23 A Yes, Un huh (Affirmative)

24 Q Wendy normally drives "Bus C" almost...

25

1 A Yeah that, not all the time but uh most, most of this band season she did, a
2 couple of times she didn't but uh, um most of the, most of the times I think she,
3 she had "Bus C".

4 Q Okay and uh during the time she's driving you're saying that her bus some
5 reason, for some reason be open and, and the other one don't?

6 A No I don't know about the other ones I'm just knowing, I'm just saying af, like
7 when we stop somewhere...

8 Q Un huh (Affirmative)

9 A ...let's say we go do a parade...

10 Q Oh okay.

11 A ...in Atlanta or something like that and then uh you know the bus is taking off so I
12 be like, you know are you gon' lock the bus and then if it's not locked I generally
13 just take my, cause I, I have my computer with me or maybe some, my, some
14 more stuff in my camera bag and I'll take it up to uh "Bus A" because I know that
15 gentleman he always locks his bus.

16 Q Okay.

17 A So.

18 Q Okay. Uh overnight, is it normal that they lock the buses?

19 A They suppose to, I know they should, yeah. I don't, I, I don't ever leave anything
20 on the bus so, and in this case everything came off the bus cause I didn't have a
21 suit, I didn't ride with them so you know I knew I what'n gonna uh, and I knew I
22 was gon' leave early uh Sunday morning.

23 Q Who all was at, were the adults on the bus that, do you know who the adults,
24 when you got, went, the uh battle of the bands, who all were the, were the adults
25 on the bus then?

1 A Uh, uh it was Dr. James and uh Earl Jones and myself.
2 Q Dr. James, Earl Jones and yourself.
3 A Yeah.
4 Q And when you came back from the uh football game?
5 A Uh the same, the same people. Well let me see who else, was anybody else
6 riding on that bus? Cause generally when we go to the game people a jump on
7 the bus, you know extra people.
8 Q Yeah.
9 A I'm trying to think, I can't uh, who was up front with us? I don't know, I think Phil
10 was up there, yeah him and his family was there, Phillip, uh one of the tra, ex
11 drum majors he was there.
12 Q Okay.
13 A And uh, um I can't think...
14 Q How...
15 A ...I can't think of who else, if anybody else, I know some more, I know the, cause
16 the buses was more full when we going to The Classics and stuff like that cause
17 other people...
18 Q Right.
19 A ...jump on. And uh, and, and...
20 Q How, that, that was my next question how, in a game like that, if you only have so
21 many band members do just other people ride, ride along?
22 A Sometimes on some, some of the big games like The Classic and maybe um, uh,
23 uh, but not down from Tallahassee.
24 Q Not from Tallahassee...

25

1 A Not from Tallahassee, sometimes some of the ex band members a come on and
2 maybe, you know uh maybe a gentleman or, or, or maybe a ex band member or
3 something like that, sometimes a ride.

4 Q Jump on and ride back from the game.

5 A And uh, yeah and ride back from the game or, no not ride to the game but ride
6 back, they'll come and park at the hotel that we're at and then they'll, they'll,
7 they'll hop on.

8 Q You recall any for this specific game?

9 A Uh only one I can remember is, I know Phil was there and um you know...

10 **(CORPORAL SEGREAVES)**

11 Q Do you know Phil's last name sir?

12 A Phillip uh, ex drum major, Phillip Solomon.

13 **(DETECTIVE PHELAN)**

14 Q And he had his family with him.

15 A He had his, yeah he had his son and his uh wife there, they, they sat, like they
16 actually sat across from me that's why I remember them. Um ...

17 Q What about uh fra, uh, like um alumnus, other alumnus other than him, uh...

18 A Yeah that's what I was trying to think, I, if they were they were in the back and
19 um, I can't even think of who else rode that bus, I can't think of, I don't think it
20 was too many but I know it probably was a few, okay uh because it's uh, it
21 always happens. Either they're there or they'll meet us at the gate.

22 Q Meet us at the gate.


23 A You know and, and, and try to get in that way. But uh I can't remember um, I
24 know I, that's all I know is him cause behind them was some freshmen so...

25 Q Okay.

1 A ...like uh if anybody else was on there they probably were in the back.
2 Q Okay. Alright uh you, raise your right hand for me.
3 A Yes sir.
4 Q Do you swear and or affirm that the statement you just gave is the truth?
5 A Yes sir.
6 Q Okay thank you very much sir.
7 A Alright thank you.

8
9
10
11 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

12 Signed this 13 day of March, 2012.

13
14 
15 **DETECTIVE PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JEFFREY MANNING**
2 **CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL JASON MCMULLEN**
3 **CASE 11-11-101834**
4

5 **Q. Detective McMullen**

6 **JD. Agent Jeff Duncan**

7 **A. Jeffrey Manning**
8
9

10 **(Inaudible background conversation...) Today is December 7th 2011 at**
11 **10:09, Corporal Jason McMullen from the Orange County Sheriff's**
12 **Office and...**
13

14 **JD. Special Agent Jeff Duncan from FDLE.**

15 **Q. Talking to Jeffrey Manning and we're located at, located at the**
16 **Florida FMU University Police Department. Um, what's your**
17 **birthday Jeffrey?**

18 **A. 01/01/86.**

19 **Q. And is the 2014 (inaudible) Road is your correct address.**

20 **A. Yes Sir.**

21 **Q. (Inaudible...). Um, and obviously the reason we're talking to you**
22 **today is because we're investigating the Robert Champion incident**
23 **(over talking)...**

24 **A. (Inaudible...).**

25 **Q. ...and your name was on the bus list the... for "Bus C" (over talking).**

1 A. Yeah, that's ah, that's, that's what I was saying, that's... I'm on the
2 bus, but been that I'm on the bus I knew I was going to call down.
3 Q. Oh...
4 A. I told my girl, I was like what, I said been that my name is on that
5 list...
6 Q. (Laugh...).
7 A. ...they're going to call me then.
8 JD. Right.
9 A. I said okay that's, that's what I'm prepared for, I got evidence
10 (inaudible over talking)...
11 JD. No that's cool.
12 A. ... (Inaudible...) there.
13 JD. The, the only thing we're... I understand yo weren't there for that
14 incident.
15 A. Yeah.
16 JD. You know what I mean, is a bigger picture (inaudible) other than Mr.
17 Champion passing away.
18 A. Yeah.
19 JD. Um, and I want to... this is a voluntary...
20 A. Yeah.
21 JD. ...statement by you.
22 A. Yeah.
23 JD. Um, (inaudible) you'd understand, you don't have to give us one.
24 A. Yeah.
25

1 JD. You're, you're free to go any time, but our involvement as State
2 Police is you get a little bit more information because the... you seen
3 the news, I'm sure.

4 A. Yeah.

5 JD. The whole incident is getting blown way out there (over talking)...

6 A. I, I, (inaudible over talking).

7 JD. ...and we got, we got to (inaudible) back in.

8 A. Yeah.

9 JD. So, I know you provided documentation (inaudible) not been.

10 A. Uh huh (affirmative).

11 JD. You are only on the bus list but...

12 A. Okay.

13 JD. ...can you give me a little... how long you've been in the band?

14 A. I've been in the band since 09, 2009.

15 JD. Are you familiar with the hot seat and the crossing over and all of that
16 (over talking)?

17 A. I don't know, I don't, I don't (inaudible) I guess. The only thing I do is
18 when I go on the bus, I sit down and listen to my music and do my
19 homework...

20 JD. Uh.

21 A. ... or watch TV. We have movies on the bus and we watch movies,
22 play little games, whatever but as far as a hot seat I don't know what
23 that is.

24 JD. You've never been through it?

25 A. (No verbal response...).

1 JD. You ride "Bus C"?
2 A. Yeah, I'm on the list.
3 JD. Are you aware of ah, the...?
4 A. I was aware of what it was, but I mean no.
5 JD. You're not going to do it?
6 A. I never experienced it because I was always the type that just get on
7 the bus, listen to my music and not
8 Acknowledge whatever.
9 JD. And is there, is there a separation in the band? And, and hear me all
10 the way through this. I know you got strings, percussion (Inaudible)
11 or whatever you got, not that type of separation. Is there a separation
12 among band members in totality that (inaudible) agreed with tradition
13 in these activities and part do not, don't want anything to do with it?
14 A. I mean (inaudible) ah, (inaudible) like I said it's been around for a
15 long time.
16 JD. Right.
17 A. Things happen, you know what I'm saying things happen but my, my
18 family members aunts, uncles, grandfather everybody so I mean...
19 and it is not just for the hundred (inaudible) what you're talking
20 about...'
21 JD. Um hum (affirmative).
22 A. ...is the (inaudible) organization as far as school, you know what I'm
23 saying (over talking).
24 JD. Right.

25

1 A. Every, every... no matter what you do is going to be a hazing
2 situation.

3 JD. Right.

4 A. As (inaudible) football, basketball, soccer, whatever, you know the
5 new guy that...

6 JD. I agree.

7 A. ...that (inaudible) do things, that's mentally hazing.

8 JD. Right.

9 A. You know what I'm saying? So I mean as far as your situation, what
10 you're talking about, I mean is really nothing different, is the same
11 thing we (Inaudible). If, if you decide to go, you know what I'm
12 saying, do what you do that is you. But honestly speaking, I mean
13 Doctor White has preached every day, every day, he take people out
14 every day about that.

15 JD. Right.

16 A. So is not about, you know what I'm saying ah, um..., what's the word
17 for it?

18 JD. Doctor White has zero tolerance on it, but...

19 A. Yeah (inaudible over talking).

20 JD. ...if that's your thing and family tradition and you (over talking)...

21 A. Yeah I mean...

22 JD. ... continue with it, then you (over talking)...

23 A. That's what we... (over talking)

24 JD. ... (Inaudible...) then you go through it.

25 A. That's, that's on you.

1 JD. If you don't want to, you don't.

2 A. Yeah if you, you want to suffer the consequences behind it, he can
3 preach and you know what's the con..., consequences behind it
4 that's on you. So if you decide to do what you do, hey you're a grown
5 man.

6 JD. Um hum (affirmative).

7 A. This is not a High School, this is not a middle school, is a, is a
8 college.

9 JD. Okay. Is there a higher hierarchy of personnel on "Bus C"?

10 A. No everybody is equal.

11 JD. There's no leader?

12 A. No leader, everybody is equal. I mean if you've been in the band
13 before me, of course you... (Inaudible...) got high ranking, but as far
14 as... I mean if you... everybody is equal we as one (inaudible).

15 JD. There's, there's nobody that directs anybody...

16 A. No.

17 JD. ...there's no specific person on the bus?

18 A. (Inaudible...) have James, he is a... he is he um, (inaudible)...

19 JD. Um hum (affirmative).

20 A. ...that's it, he just, he decides what we... as far as like tell everybody
21 to be quiet, if we get too loud he is like alright everybody be quiet.
22 Other than that, no.

23 JD. But... since I'm focusing on what's been classed by is hazing, until is
24 proven in, in court and all that...

25 A. Yeah.

1 JD. ...good stuff. But if I went looking into that... and I know you're not
2 involved in that side...
3 A. Uh huh (affirmative).
4 JD. ...but you're aware that, that happened...
5 A. Uh huh (affirmative).
6 JD. ...and that's their business.
7 A. Uh huh (affirmative).
8 JD. (Inaudible...) who would direct that?
9 A. Personally I really don't know.
10 JD. Because you don't get involved.
11 A. Because I don't get involved.
12 JD. Okay.
13 Q. Where do you seat on the bus?
14 A. I seat wherever I want to seat, I can seat in the front, I can seat in
15 back, I can seat in middle, wherever I decide where I want to seat.
16 Sometimes I sit right where the TV is at and I watch TV.
17 JD. (Inaudible...) up front?
18 A. Ah, no the TV is be all like through the bus (inaudible) like four or five
19 TV's. Sometimes I seat in the middle.
20 JD. How many trips do you think you've been on "Bus C"?
21 A. Um, about... I'll say three, four about three or four.
22 JD. And you've never seen the...
23 A. No.
24 JD. ... (Inaudible...) you've never seen anybody (inaudible over talking)?
25

1 A. Because when I go to the bus, I grab my comforter, I grab my head
2 phones, like I said if I'm doing homework, I do my... the homework
3 and that's it. If they playing games or they talking loud or whatever, I
4 probably join them in the crowd when they're talking loud or
5 whatever...

6 JD. Right.

7 A. ...when they have like discussion or debate or something, I get on
8 that, but other than that no.

9 JD. Did you know Robert Champion?

10 A. Yeah, he was a good guy.

11 JD. What, what was his attitude (inaudible) of course I can't talk to him, I
12 didn't know him?

13 A. (Inaudible over talking...).

14 JD. What was his attitude toward hazing?

15 A. Um, personally I don't know his personal attitude towards hazing, but
16 ah, ah, as far as a person, know him personal; I didn't know him in
17 person, I, I knew him once I got in the band.

18 JD. Right.

19 A. And he was the type of guy that he just became drum major, so you
20 know what I'm saying... well he was playing clarinet (inaudible).

21 JD. Um hum (affirmative).

22 A. ... (Inaudible...) whatever but um, his type of guy was, he was cool;
23 you know what I'm saying.

24 JD. Uh huh (affirmative).

1 A. He got respect, you tell him...he tell you to do something yo do it
2 because he is not the type of drum major or the type of guy that he
3 would be like, like oh you (inaudible) what are you doing (inaudible)
4 what is it. No he'll be the type the guy that would like you, you need
5 to tighten up you know what I'm saying ah (inaudible) help (over
6 talking).

7 JD. So instead of been the historical...

8 A. Yeah.

9 JD. ...jerk on the band because I'm been there (over talking)...

10 A. Yeah he was he was the guy...

11 JD. ...he was more respectful towards you.

12 A. He more respectful, more respectful, you know what I'm saying, he,
13 he was a good guy.

14 JD. Okay. You got anything (inaudible)?

15 Q. If... I know you had your baby and everything but...

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. ...is anybody going to say that they saw you on the bus or saw you in
18 Orlando?

19 A. I mean if they saw me in Orlando (over talking)...

20 Q. (Inaudible...).

21 A. ...someone (inaudible) lie because I have proof that I wasn't there.
22 And you guys have proof.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So (over talking).

25 Q. I, I, I'm not saying that...

1 A. (Inaudible...).

2 Q. ...you been dishonest with us, I just want to make sure that nobody is

3 going to...

4 A. Oh no, yeah they're going to (inaudible over talking).

5 Q. ...nobody is going to dispute (over talking)...

6 A. (Inaudible...)...

7 Q. ...what you're saying to us (over talking).

8 A. ...I'm going to tell you right now, I'm going to right now... I'm

9 percussion and I play my drum and if I'm not there people notice.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. You know what I'm saying (over talking).

12 Q. So, so they're going to know you're missing (over talking).

13 A. People are going to miss me.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. So...

16 Q. And...

17 A. ...and plus I play in the middle so and middle person plays the

18 loudest so if I'm not there they're going to know, okay but where's this

19 guy, oh he, he didn't come because (inaudible).

20 Q. If you were there would you've been on the field during (inaudible)

21 show?

22 A. Yeah, I would've been on the field.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Yeah. I mean I'm a vet so, I would've been there.

25

1 Q. Okay. Because not everybody that goes, goes on the field right (over
2 talking).

3 A. Yeah everybody don't go on the field.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. If you don't, if you (inaudible) and yo don't make it, you sit on the side
6 line.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. You just (Inaudible) so (laugh).

9 Q. Alright (laugh...).

10 A. That's awards.

11 Q. Alright. You have anything else?

12 JD. (Inaudible...).

13 Q. Can you raise your right hand for me? You swear everything you told
14 us today it's true?

15 A. Positive.

16 Q. Alright. And we're ending interview at 10:18 hours.
17
18

19 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

20
21 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

22 

23 **DETECTIVE David Phelan, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**
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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF JELANI MARKS**

2 **DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN**

3 **CASE NUMBER 11-101834**

4 **RECORDED DECEMBER 7, 2011**

5 **TYPED DECEMBER 14, 2011**

6
7
8 **Okay, today is Wednesday, December the 7th, 2011, the time is now 1:30 p.m. I'm**
9 **Detective David A. Phelan Orange County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation**
10 **Division. Also present is FAMU Police Department.. Investigator (IC) Cotton,**
11 **Cotton. And we're here at the FAMU Police Department in reference to a death of**
12 **Robert Champion. And we're here speaking with?**

13 A Ah, Jelani Marks..

14 Q Mr. Marks, ah, you understand that we are looking into the death of Robert... Mr.
15 Robert Champion, right?

16 A Yes sir.

17 Q Okay. And ah, you understand that you are.. explain to you that you are not
18 under any obligation to give a statement if you do not wish to.

19 A Okay.

20 Q You're free to leave at anytime. You're not under arrest. Okay you understand
21 that?

22 A Yes sir.

23 Q Okay. And ah, you un.. you ah, know that, understand that this is being
24 recorded, right?
25

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q Okay. Um, you are a student here at FAMU?

3 A Yes sir.

4 Q Okay and what year are you in?

5 A I'm in my third year.

6 Q Third year. Okay and um, are you a member of the band?

7 A Yes sir.

8 Q Okay and you march all three years?

9 A Yes sir.

10 Q Okay. Um, you are assigned to ride "Bus C" to out of.. out of.. out of. away

11 games?

12

13 A Yes sir.

14 Q Okay and on this particular incident back on the 18th, I guess y'all rode up on the

15 17th or 18th, which would been that day before the game. Ah, did you ride "Bus

16 C" that day?

17 A Yes sir.

18 Q I coming here, coming up? Okay. And I guess that Friday night y'all had a um,

19 battle of the bands?

20

21 A Yes sir that Friday and then Saturday was the, was the football game.

22 Q Okay Friday night did you ride the "Bus C" to the battle of the bands?

23 A Yes sir.

24 Q And did you ride it back after the battle of the band?

25 A Yes sir.

1 Q Okay during the ride back.. Where do you sit on the bus?

2 A Um, closer to the front.

3 Q Okay. Ah, during the ride back from the battle of the bands did you ah, happen

4 to hear any commotion that may have sounded like ah, fighting or hitting of

5 anyone?

6 A No sir I actually had ah, headphones and the most.. the majority of the time.

7 Q Okay. Are you familiar with the ah, "Bus C" tradition of ah, hot seats and

8 crossing over?

9

10 A I've heard the term hot seat before. But I, I don't know first hand of what exactly

11 it is.

12 Q Okay. So, with that being said that was my next question, have you gone

13 through the process of the crossing over?

14 A No sir I don't, I don't get involved in that.

15 Q Okay. Okay. Ah, then after the ah, after you returned to the hotel after the ah,

16 battle of the bands did you remain on the bus or did you get off and go back to

17 your room?

18 A I got off the bus when we got to the hotel.

19 Q Okay. And ah, do you know any.. anyone that remained at the bus?

20

21 A Ah, no sir.

22 Q Okay. Ah, the next day which would have been Saturday did you ride the bus to

23 the game?

24 A Yes sir.

25 Q And then you, after the game did you ride the bus back to the hotel?

1 A Yes sir.

2 Q And after getting back to the hotel did you remain on the bus or did you go to
3 your room?

4 A I went to my room on the fourth floor. Um, I went there with ah, with Jermaine
5 Scott. It was the (Inaudible)... in another room.

6 Q Okay. And.. you have no personal knowledge of what occurred on "Bus C" after
7 you and Jermaine got back?

8 A No..

9 Q Got back?

10 A No sir.

11 Q And what is your thought about this ah, this um, activities that re going on, on
12 "Bus C"? I mean what have you heard about it?

13 A Well, I mean to the, to the sober minded people it's just a bus.

14 Q Right.

15 A But um, like I said, I sit closer towards the front so, I don't really know exactly
16 what these other people are doing.

17 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

18 A I don't know exactly who was doing it. You know everything.. everything that
19 happens would have to happen behind me. And ah, I think it's ah, I think it's
20 personally crazy. I don't get involved in that.

21 Q Right.

22

23

1 A Um, I usually keep to myself on the bus. Jermaine and I we have a lot in
2 common so, we usually just ah, we either do homework listening to music or ah,
3 talk to one another. But I don't.. I don't get involved in, in the whole process.

4 Q Okay. You got anything?

5 **(INVESTIGATOR COTTON)**

6 Q Is there.. (Inaudible)..you sit, you sit closer to the front of the bus?

7 A Nah, there's no particular reason.

8 Q So, it's not assigned according to which year you're in or if you gone through the
9 process of things that the ritual "Bus C" ritual.

10 A Well it's not a assigned, but what I will say is that I would assume that any.. any
11 type of, any type of anything that goes on the bus what happens was the back.
12 And since I don't get involved in that I tend to stay away from that area.

13 Q The ah, people, you know the people that kind of sit generally around you on
14 "Bus C"? I mean is it the same group of people or do they alternate?

15 A It's not always the same group. But like I said before, I usually sit near Jermaine
16 Scott and ah, Jordan Rochester's usually somewhere in that area too.

17 Q Okay. No further questions. (Inaudible)...

18 **(DETECITVE PHELAN)**

19 Q Okay. Raise your right hand fort me. Do you swear and or affirm that the
20 statement you just gave is the truth, the whole truth?

21 A Yes sir.

22 Q We thank you.

23 A Yeah no problem.

1 THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

2 Signed this 8th day of March, 2012.

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5 DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF
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1 **AC:** Yeah (affirmative), at any time you get to a point you don't want to talk to me
2 anymore you just, we're just trying to get information, okay? You're not under
3 arrest or anything.

4 **CM:** Okay.

5 **AC:** Okay. Uhm, okay, so this is your second season?

6 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

7 **AC:** What's the part you play?

8 **CM:** I play uhm, percussion snare. (Inaudible.)

9 **AC:** Percussion snare? Okay. And what bus do you normally ride to go to those....

10 **CM:** Uhm, last year I rode H. This year is was naturally they put us on C because
11 that's where percussion was.

12 **AC:** Okay. And you did go to the game, right?

13 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), I did go to the game.

14 **AC:** Okay. And you got to play out on the field?

15 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

16 **AC:** Okay. So uhm, after the game did you uhm, how'd you get back to the hotel?

17 **CM:** I rode the bus.

18 **AC:** Okay.

19 **CM:** But as soon as I got back uhm, my mom was texting me. I have text messages
20 and everything time, reporting the times. My mom was texting me so I could go
21 to the plaza across the street with her like to Hooters and the, the shops and the
22 clubs. Because she got some shoes for me and stuff.

23 **AC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

24 **CM:** So I was there until about....

25 **AC:** What time'd you guys get back roughly? Do you remember?

1 **CM:** We got back, it was close to nine. It was close to nine. It wasn't late at all.
2 **AC:** Okay. But what did, did you uh, after you got there what did you do?
3 **CM:** I got, I got straight off the bus. I went to my hotel, put on a jacket and I went
4 across the street.
5 **AC:** Okay, so what time did you uh, meet your mom, roughly?
6 **CM:** Uhm, I'll trying to get back to it. Uhm....
7 **DP:** You went to your room and changed now?
8 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
9 **AC:** What room are you staying in?
10 **CM:** Uhm, 420.
11 **AC:** And how were you staying with?
12 **CM:** I was staying with Wayne Kind and....
13 **AC:** Wayne King?
14 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
15 **AC:** And who else?
16 **CM:** And Ryan Richards.
17 **AC:** Ryan Richards. Okay. Did they go with you?
18 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), we were all together.
19 **AC:** I mean did they go shopping with you?
20 **CM:** No. I went to, I went to the hotel mall first and I got uh, things for my people.
21 And there was uh, that was their last time seeing me before I went home for
22 break. Then I came back to the hotel, got dressed, and then we, me, Ryan and
23 Wayne went to Hooters.
24 **DP:** You say you went with your mother to the mall?
25

1 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative). Uhm, they were already there and they were waiting on me.
2 So I kind of, I kind of rushed off. I'm having a hard time finding times, hum. But
3 November 19th uhm, "We are at the shopping plaza where the movies is. Come
4 and get your shoes as soon as you can so we can go to our hotel." So I was
5 rushing to, I was saying, "The traffic's bad and we just arrived." And then that
6 was after the fact that everything happen.

7 **DP:** Okay, you (unintelligible) that with a certain time.

8 **CM:** I was....

9 **DP:** Match it.

10 **CM:** Uh, message details.

11 **AC:** Yeah (affirmative), I know.

12 **CM:** 8:26, but see it was around....

13 **DP:** 8:26 (inaudible).

14 **CM:** It was around nine. Well I was, I was saying, I thinking close to nine. I was
15 thinking like eight (inaudible).

16 **AC:** Okay, so this is....

17 **CM:** It was right when I got off the bus.

18 **AC:** Okay.

19 **DP:** (Inaudible)....

20 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).

21 **DP:** ...that'd be like the proper time (inaudible)....

22 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), that was right when I got there.

23 **DP:**eight-thirty.

24 **CM:** And then...

25 **DP:** Eight-twenty-six you uh, is when you....

1 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
2 **DP:** ...text your mom and said you....
3 **CM:** When I said we just arrived and I got off the bus.
4 **DP:** What's your cell number?
5 **C:** My cell?
6 **DP:** Yeah (affirmative).
7 **CM:** 954-300...
8 **DP:** Okay.
9 **CM:** ...7314.
10 **DP:** How long you had this cell?
11 **CM:** I had this cell only for a few months. Uhm, like three months from, like three
12 months or something.
13 **AC:** What's your mom's uhm, what's your, who are you talking to? Are you talking to
14 your mom's cell?
15 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
16 **AC:** What's her number?
17 **CM:** Uhm, it is on (inaudible).
18 **AC:** Okay.
19 **CM:** 954...
20 **AC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
21 **CM:** ...873-2331.
22 **AC:** And that's her cell number?
23 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
24 **AC:** What's your, your home phone number for your mom?
25 **CM:** Oh, uhm....

1 **AC:** (Laughs.) You got to....
2 **CM:** I don't know if I have that.
3 **AC:** What if it's an emergency.
4 **CM:** Because we stay, we stay in different, we stay in different houses. I stay with my
5 grandma.
6 **AC:** Oh, okay.
7 **CM:** My grandma was there too if you guys want her number.
8 **AC:** Okay. Uhm, yeah (affirmative), what's your grandma's number?
9 **CM:** 954...
10 **AC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
11 **CM:** ...240-2182.
12 **AC:** And what's her name?
13 **CM:** Dorothy Major.
14 **AC:** Dorothy Major.
15 **CM:** Uhm....
16 **AC:** And what's your, I'm sorry, what was your mom's name?
17 **CM:** Jamarra.
18 **AC:** J?
19 **CM:** A-M-A-R-R-A. Henderson, H-E-N-D-E-R....
20 **AC:** S-O-N?
21 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
22 **AC:** Okay. Alright. So when did you hear about what happened?
23 **CM:** I heard about what happened when we were at Hooters, around, my friend called
24 me, uh, it, it had to be around like eleven; ten-thirty, eleven.
25 **UM:** Okay. And uhm, (inaudible).

1 **CM:** ...I mean the word was going around. They didn't know exactly (inaudible), but
2 around twelve it was, everybody was, it, it was a mess. (Inaudible.)
3 **AC:** When did you come back to the hotel?
4 **CM:** I came back to the hotel (sighs)....
5 **AC:** Roughly.
6 **CM:** Oh, man. I came back to the hotel around like four-forty-five because I didn't
7 want to be at the hotel because everybody was crying and all, everything was
8 happening and I called my, my mom. Because I was like you know, I don't feel
9 like riding back to Tallahassee with the band because there's too much going on.
10 The bus ride will be too sad. And my people were in town in Orlando. So, I
11 stayed with uhm, another friend because they, they had rode here I mean to,
12 they had rode to Orlando with the school and they stayed in a different hotel. So
13 I stayed with them until....
14 **AC:** So you didn't go back to the hotel...
15 **CM:** Uhm.....
16 **AC:** ...that night?
17 **CM:** ...I went back to the hotel to get my stuff.
18 **AC:** Okay. Did you completely leave from the hotel.....
19 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
20 **AC:** ...at that point?
21 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
22 **AC:** Okay. So you went back about one-forty-five?
23 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
24 **AC:** And left?
25 **CM:** And my people were at the hotel.

1 **AC:** Okay. What hotel did you end up staying at?
2 **CM:** Uhm, I was, I was, I didn't, the, the one, the one I visited with my friend?
3 **AC:** Yeah (affirmative).
4 **CM:** It was Embassy Suites.
5 **AC:** Embassy Suites?
6 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
7 **AC:** And where was that at?
8 **CM:** Uhm, I do not know. It's, it's down the, it was down the street.
9 **AC:** On that same drive?
10 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), the same drive.
11 **AC:** Okay.
12 **CM:** The same drive.
13 **AC:** Okay, got you. So it wasn't really far?
14 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), it wasn't that far.
15 **AC:** Did somebody have to come pick you up or...
16 **CM:** No, I, I walked.
17 **AC:** Oh, okay.
18 **CM:** It wasn't that far.
19 **DP:** Just for time purposes uh, you went to the mall. Did you purchase anything that
20 the uh, mall (inaudible).
21 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative).
22 **DP:** Okay. Well...
23 **CM:** The only time I purchased was when I went to eat with my mom (inaudible).
24 **DP:** And that was at Smokey Bones?
25 **AC:** That would be at Hooters.

1 **DP:** (Inaudible.) Okay, and the uhm, stores that you went to in the mall where did you
2 go?

3 **CM:** Uhm, I didn't really. But we were buying the, it was like a, it's like a natural soap
4 and body, body shop my mom were, were shopping (inaudible) and it was by the,
5 it was uhm, we were, we went by the movies too because my family was over
6 there.

7 **AC:** So did, where did you go to pick up your shoes at?

8 **CM:** Uhm, the, it's like a natural body shop. I forgot the name. But it was in, it was by
9 (sighs), it was, it was the same isle with the movies I think.

10 **AC:** And what, what mall is this that you went to?

11 **CM:** It wasn't really a mall. It was like a plaza. It was, I forget the name.

12 **AC:** Was it on I-Drive?

13 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative). It's, it was the one across from the hotel.

14 **AC:** So when you walk, if you walk straight out of the hotel did you go left or right?

15 **CM:** Like it's, it's a little left. It wasn't much.

16 **AC:** A little left? Okay.

17 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative). It wasn't much.

18 **AC:** Okay. So what, what do you know about the tradition on "Bus C"?

19 **CM:** I mean I know, for percussion it is just the natural bus you go on, but....

20 **DP:** Let me ask you this. Let me ask you this. Uhm, we are, for our purposes of
21 talking about "Bus C" we're not talking about the bus that you rode to the game
22 on. We're talking about "Bus C" after hours activity that is occurring with the uh,
23 ritual type activity, okay?

24 **CM:** (Inaudible)....

25 **DP:** Has anyone, has, in your knowledge do you know what happens on "Bus C"?

1 **CM:** Uhm, to tell you the truth I don't deal with that mess. And....

2 **AC:** So what did you, so when you say you don't deal with that mess have, have you,

3 have you...

4 **CM:** Like any, anything....

5 **AC:** ...have you gone through it? Have you been approached to go through it?

6 **CM:** I just, I just, I just, I just sat on the bus and got there and did uh, did what I need

7 to. Uh, I don't like, I don't like that hazing stuff.

8 **AC:** (Inaudible.)

9 **CM:** So and when I got to the hotel I got straight off the bus. I don't know anything

10 about that.

11 **DP:** Yeah (affirmative). What we're saying is have you been through the ritual part of

12 "Bus C" that occurs on "Bus C?" Have you personally been through it?

13 **AC:** Uh, uh, you're not in trouble for that, okay? This is, that's, that's past. When'd

14 you go through it?

15 **CM:** Well....

16 **AC:** Roughly. How long ago was it?

17 **CM:** I, I really couldn't tell you. Like uhm....

18 **AC:** Well you've only been on the thing for two years. Was it this year?

19 **CM:** It was, it was just this year.

20 **AC:** Okay. So what game did you go to?

21 **CM:** (Sighs.) Uhm....

22 **AC:** Was it Atlanta?

23 **CM:** No, it wasn't Atlanta. It was uh, S...South Carolina game.

24 **AC:** South Carolina game? So that, that was in October, right?

25 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).

1 **AC:** Okay. So tell me how it happened? What goes on?
2 **CM:** Uhm...
3 **AC:** Who brings you onto the bus?
4 **CM:** I mean you just, you're just kind of on there and they....
5 **AC:** Did you get injured?
6 **CM:** Uhm, no, not like that.
7 **AC:** Well uh, uh, if you could describe to me what did you feel like when you went
8 through? After you got through.
9 **CM:** It was, it was just kind of a tousle going through it.
10 **AC:** Yeah (affirmative).
11 **DP:** People trying to hold you and stuff?
12 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), just somewhat like that. But....
13 **DP:** Were you hit with anything that you know of?
14 **CM:** Uhm, no.
15 **AC:** Anybody ever use anything, uh, like uh, musical instruments....
16 **CM:** No.
17 **AC:** ...sticks or anything else like that? How about uhm....
18 **DP:** What'd you say?
19 **CM:** Tousle.
20 **AC:** A tousle.
21 **CM:** (Inaudible.)
22 **AC:** Well would it be fair to say that people were punching you?
23 **CM:** I mean not seriously, no, nobody was really punching me.
24 **AC:** Okay, well, so what are they doing? I mean....
25 **CM:** I mean it was....

1 **AC:** Tousling is....
2 **CM:** ...it was, it was....
3 **AC:** To me tousling is you're holding on to....
4 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
5 **AC:** You're on a bus. Uh, you're not going to be able to tousle. You know, I mean,
6 you're, what, what's the object of the, when you went on there?
7 **CM:** I mean just....
8 **AC:** What's the object?
9 **CM:** I guess just to reach uhm, I guess just to reach the back.
10 **AC:** Okay. So you get, you get on the front of the bus and then...
11 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
12 **AC:** ...you got to reach the back? And once you get to the back is, what happens
13 after that?
14 **CM:** It's like hey, you reached the back of the bus (inaudible).
15 **AC:** Okay.
16 **DP:** You're, you're accepted now?
17 **AC:** Huh?
18 **DP:** You're accepted in?
19 **CM:** I guess yeah (affirmative), something like that, yeah (affirmative).
20 **DP:** (inaudible.)
21 **AC:** So who, who, who runs this?
22 **CM:** Uhm, uh, they, there's nobody really that, that runs it.
23 **AC:** Well who is like alright, let's just be particular on your situation. Who was there
24 running, getting this done (inaudible). How many, how many people involved?
25

1 **CM:** I don't, I don't, I don't know all that. There's like they, they didn't, like I'm young,
2 so they don't really (inaudible).
3 **DP:** Okay, that's fine. That's fine (inaudible). Uhm, okay. Did you have to go to
4 someone to go through this procedure, or did, did you, they ask you did someone
5 come in and say you have an opportunity to do this?
6 **CM:** Nobody really came. Nobody really came to me. It's more like (inaudible).
7 **AC:** Yeah (affirmative), but how'd you know to do it then? Why is that game....
8 **CM:** Uh, I, I d...uh, huh, to tell you the truth....
9 **AC:** I mean somebody had to, some....
10 **CM:** ...I really don't know.
11 **AC:** Somebody had to come say that as opposed to this game, why did you do it this
12 game? You know what I'm saying?
13 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
14 **AC:** Somebody said like okay man, it's your time. Who came to you and said okay?
15 **CM:** It was, it was, it was more like okay....
16 **DP:** You ride the bus (inaudible).
17 **CM:** Huh?
18 **DP:** You ride the bus right?
19 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
20 **DP:** Every day, every day this year you rode the bus in. So how many of these
21 games do you think they actually had a ritual on the bus?
22 **CM:** (Inaudible – static.)
23 **DP:** How many games you actually think they had the ritual on "Bus C" this year?
24 **CM:** Uhm, I couldn't tell you. I couldn't tell you.
25 **DP:** More than....

1 **CM:** Because we weren't....
2 **DP:** ...more than (inaudible).
3 **CM:** ...we weren't, I wasn't on the bus like that. Like I said....
4 **DP:** Right. You're not allowed to be on there if you're not (inaudible).
5 **CM:** I mean yeah (affirmative), something like that.
6 **AC:** Okay, but well you got to make it as clear as to what exactly is. So after you do
7 that are you now able to participate in the next one?
8 **CM:** Uhm, yeah (affirmative).
9 **AC:** Okay. Did you?
10 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative).
11 **AC:** Did you ever participate in another one?
12 **CM:** No.
13 **AC:** Why not?
14 **CM:** I don't know, it just not me. I don't, I just, I guess I just went through it and you
15 know what I'm saying....
16 **AC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
17 **CM:** ...sat down and I'm not really that type of person to make a big deal of. But I
18 didn't partake in....
19 **DP:** And uh....
20 **CM:** ...anything after....
21 **DP:**on the 19th after you got back....
22 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
23 **DP:**did you participate in uhm, a ritual that included Robert (inaudible).
24 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative). I told y'all I was with my people.
25 **DP:** Okay, that's what I'm saying...

1 **CM:** The....
2 **DP:**that's, that's a direct question (inaudible). Okay. We're not going to have you
3 on video coming from that bus after nine-thirty, nine o'clock, nine-thirty that
4 night?
5 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative). Huh-huh (negative).
6 **DP:** Okay. We're not going to have you on video in that parking lot after nine, nine-
7 thirty that night by, by the buses?
8 **CM:** Nope (negative).
9 **DP:** Okay.
10 **CM:** Because I got straight off like I said and went to the other side over by the
11 (inaudible).
12 **AC:** Okay.
13 **DP:** Well I know I got you on video. I know I got you on video.
14 **CM:** Okay.
15 **DP:** I saw you on video. So, I'm telling you that.
16 **CM:** Okay. You got me on video that night? Oh, coming from the buses?
17 **DP:** I got you on video coming inside the hotel at nine something. It looked like you
18 came from the buses.
19 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), me (unintelligible).
20 **DP:** Dr. White, Dr. White even looked at the video and Dr. uh....
21 **CM:** Uh, huh....
22 **DP:** ...what's the uh...
23 **CM:** You got...
24 **DP:** Yes sir.
25 **CM:** ...you got me on video coming in the busses?

1 **DP:** Yes sir. Look like you. (Inaudible.) Yeah (affirmative), I got them right here I
2 think. I'm uh, I'm going to give you an opportunity to see it. That's (inaudible).
3 **CM:** You probably got me at eight-thirty, but I wasn't I wasn't with the busses. I wasn't
4 with the bus. I got off the bus....
5 **AC:** Okay.
6 **CM:** Went upstairs. I went out the other side.
7 **AC:** Because you know, you realize the, the other part of this is to confirm what you,
8 what you were doing. So we're supporting what you were doing...
9 **CM:** Right.
10 **AC:** ...you know, in, in addition. What do they call that when you run through the, the
11 bus thing? What's that?
12 **DP:** Yeah (affirmative), they got a name for that yet?
13 **CM:** I don't even know. It's not really a name.
14 **AC:** Well what, what, how'd you know what it was?
15 **CM:** I mean just go, it's like a go through it, or if you want call it a cross or....
16 **AC:** I mean what'd they tell you so you knew that's what you were supposed to do?
17 **DP:** So they would call it a crossing over?
18 **CM:** I guess, yeah (affirmative).
19 **AC:** And did you have to prepare? I mean what, when you go down there what, what,
20 what are you supposed to dress in?
21 **CM:** Uhm...
22 **AC:** Do you have to have your uniform on?
23 **CM:** No, no, no. It's nothing really dressing.
24 **AC:** Do you have to take your shirt off or....
25

1 **CM:** Uhm, people, people, people sometimes yeah (affirmative), sometimes no. It's
2 usually....

3 **AC:** Well let me, okay, let me, what did you do when you did it? Did you have your
4 shirt on?

5 **CM:** Uhm, I had a tank top on.

6 **AC:** You had a tank top on? Okay. So is it fair to say that the uh, the drum majors
7 were the ones that were....

8 **DP:** (Inaudible.)

9 **AC:** ...conducting that when you went through?

10 **CM:** No. They, I don't think they, uh, I don't think (inaudible).

11 **AC:** Well who would have been on the bus?

12 **CM:** I don't, I don't know.

13 **AC:** See, but you got to do, you're doing very well, and you're telling us the truth. And
14 you got to make sure, don't cover up for anybody else, okay?

15 **CM:** I'm not trying to cover up for anybody else.

16 **AC:** Okay.

17 **CM:** I, I just don't know because I wasn't there.

18 **AC:** No, at the one that you went to. You were there for that one.

19 **CM:** Uh, I just....

20 **AC:** And it was on "Bus C". It was, who was the bus driver then?

21 **CM:** That....

22 **AC:** The same one was this, this, this uh....

23 **CM:** That....

24 **AC:** ...this trip?

25 **CM:** Too long a time. I don't....

1 **AC:** It's only October (chuckles).
2 **CM:** I don't remember.
3 **AC:** Was it a m...a male or female?
4 **CM:** I don't remember.
5 **AC:** Because if I ask them and they say yeah (affirmative), the bus driver, and then he
6 says yeah (affirmative), I was there and....
7 **CM:** I really wouldn't be able to tell you.
8 **AC:** You, on, on the South Carolina game you don't know if it was a male or female
9 driving?
10 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative), I forgot.
11 **AC:** (Inaudible) is the bus running at the time?
12 **DP:** And we didn't bring the ones inside the hotel. These are the ones outside.
13 **CM:** You got me inside the hotel now?
14 **DP:** You know any of those? (Coughs.)
15 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative). Huh-huh (negative).
16 **AC:** Who's that that you see in there? You recognize who it is. Who is it?
17 **CM:** I think....
18 **AC:** Who's the guy in the, who's the guy in the white?
19 **CM:** I can't (inaudible).
20 **AC:** Well you know who that guys is.
21 **DP:** (Inaudible.)
22 **CM:** Huh-huh (negative). I don't know. There's two people that size.
23 **AC:** Hmm?
24 **CM:** There's two people that size in the band.
25 **DP:** And all are tubas.

1 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative). Uh, that's what I saying, like the tubas are that size. But I,
2 like I said....

3 **DP:** I'll check the time and I'll let you know. I'll call you and let you know.

4 **CM:** I got straight off the bus. I wasn't there. You can ask my people.

5 **AC:** No, okay. Okay. Uh, that's, that I'm pretty, we're sure. We want to make sure
6 that we confirm and you know, and support what you have to say.

7 **CM:** Okay.

8 **AC:** But look at me. You know, you're avoiding my question as to who the bus driver.
9 Why answering what the bus driver was? You think they're going to get them in
10 trouble?

11 **CM:** I, uh, (laughs), I want to tell you but I just don't, I don't remember.

12 **AC:** You don't remember...

13 **CM:** I don't....

14 **AC:** ...if a male or a female?

15 **CM:** ...if it, it was (sighs), you have a multiple. It wasn't just....

16 **AC:** No, and all I'm worried about is "Bus C."

17 **CM:** That drove our bus?

18 **AC:** Right. To the South Carolina game.

19 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).

20 **AC:** Did, did you ride on "Bus C" to the South Carolina game?

21 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative), all this (inaudible).

22 **AC:** Okay. Uhm, the uhm, was the bus on when you in your South Carolina when
23 you did yours, was the bus running?

24 **CM:** Uhm...

25 **DP:** (Coughs.)

1 **CM:** ...I, mine....
2 **AC:** Were the lights on?
3 **CM:** I don't uhm, I don't think the lights were on.
4 **AC:** You don't think they....
5 **CM:** No. Uhm...
6 **AC:** Okay. So how'd you feel afterwards?
7 **CM:** I was alright.
8 **AC:** I mean you didn't....
9 **CM:** I was alright.
10 **AC:** ...get dizzy or anything?
11 **CM:** Not really, no.
12 **AC:** No? Did you, how about uh, how badly were you bruised?
13 **CM:** I wasn't, I wasn't bruised badly at all.
14 **AC:** Any one particular thing hurt more than the other?
15 **DP:** (Coughs.)
16 **AC:** So, is it fair to say that, how's the hierarchy go in the, and how many people were
17 marked in your...
18 **UM:** Okay....
19 **AC:** ...roughly? Over a dozen?
20 **UM:** But it was November of last year of...
21 **CM:** I don't know. Because uh, you, I wasn't paying attention to that (laughs).
22 **AC:** (Laughs.) Oh, I know, I know (unintelligible).
23 **CM:** It was like I don't (unintelligible).
24 **AC:** Well when looked up when you first started, you know, when you first....
25 **UM:** Okay.

1 **AC:** ...look up and you head down the, the a...of the aisle, how many people....
2 **CM:** Uhm...
3 **AC:** ...if you gave an estimate?
4 **CM:** I couldn't, I couldn't tell you.
5 **AC:** Would it be more than six?
6 **UM:** Okay. Okay.
7 **CM:** I don't know.
8 **UM:** Thank you so much.
9 **AC:** Would there be fifty?
10 **CM:** No, it was, huh-huh (negative).
11 **AC:** Not that many. Okay, so now you have a number in your mind. Just tell me what
12 the number is.
13 **CM:** Uhm, (inaudible).
14 **AC:** Roughly.
15 **DP:** Approximately. Twenty?
16 **AC:** No.
17 **DP:** Less? Fifteen?
18 **AC:** What number?
19 **CM:** Maybe like ten.
20 **AC:** Ten?
21 **CM:** Something like that.
22 **AC:** Okay. And how many of them would be uh, the drum majors?
23 **CM:** Usually drum majors (inaudible) from what, from what I've seen. But....
24 **AC:** I'm just talking about your particular case (inaudible).
25 **CM:** There wasn't, there wasn't any.

1 **AC:** (Inaudible.)
2 **CM:** There wasn't any.
3 **AC:** Okay. Anything else?
4 **CM:** Uhm, I already got, it's just, huh, everything going on.
5 **AC:** No, no, I know, and I appreciate. Here, I just want to say the statement that you
6 just gave me, do you swear that that's the truth and nothing but the truth?
7 **CM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
8 **AC:** Okay. If necessary, if I needed to come back and ask you the exact same thing,
9 would you be willing to tell me the same answers?
10 **CM:** Yeah (affirmative).
11 **AC:** Okay. Alright. Well thank you much man. I appreciate your time.
12 **CM:** Alright. Thank you.
13 **AC:** Okay, thank you man.
14 **CM:** Okay.
15 **AC:** Alright.
16 **CM:** Alright.
17 **DP:** Uh, (inaudible) FDLE guy?
18 **UM:** Yeah (affirmative), he just called me. He wanted to see if you guys needed
19 anything. He said (unintelligible).
20 **AC:** Okay, we're going to....
21 **UM:** Uh, I told him....
22 **AC:** ...end the interview at 10:35....
23 **UM:** ...(inaudible) uhm, (inaudible).
24 **End of recorded statement.**
25 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

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3 **DETECTIVE DAVID A. PHELAN**
4 **OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**
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